Hafa Adai!

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25 middle schoolers complete summer math camp. PAGE 6

75¢

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Stories of desperation

» Torres appeals to delegate to work together and avoid politicizing pandemic

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sablan

Torres

"There are so many stories of desperation, of the loss of a vehicle, of unpaid bills and loans, of depleted savings, of unpaid rent and evictions, of the need for food, of the need for living essentials for their children."

These stories and more have reportedly been ending up at the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who said Wednesday that hundreds of people have contacted his office, pleading for

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LINE FOR SCHOOL ID'S NEIL FAMA
A long line of parents in cars get ready to retrieve their child(ren)'s school identification cards yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School in Afetnas for the upcoming school year. The ID cards will also allow parents to avail of the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program meal distribution called Grab & Go.

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 3, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,447	47	1,494
Recovered	568	85	653
Active	781	47	828
Deaths	13	0	13
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			38,928

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	57	0	57
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)— The federal government has told states to prepare for a coronavirus vaccine to be ready to distribute by Nov. 1.

The timeline raised concern among public health experts about an "October surprise"— a vaccine approval driven by political considerations ahead of a presidential election, rather than science.

In a letter to governors dated Aug. 27, Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for

See CDC on Page 4

In this Aug. 14, 2020, file photo, laboratory technicians work at the mAbxience biopharmaceutical company on an experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by Oxford University and the laboratory AstraZeneca in Garin, Argentina. AP

'CNMI very much dependent on federal aid now

» Speaker says removing $15.5M IPI's annual license fee unrealistic

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REPORTER

Attao

Due to lack of economic activity because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI is very much reliant on the federal aid that the CNMI government and the people are getting right now, said House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan)

See CNMI on Page 4

CDC stops home evictions for now

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has ordered a nationwide halt on home evictions until Dec. 31, 2020, for people who have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have no other way of providing housing for themselves and their families.

The goal for the eviction ban is to ensure that people have a place where they and their

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Newly opened Ice Island in Garapan serves popular Taiwanese dessert called Bao Bing.

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Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a nerve agent, Germany says.

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OFF THE WALL
An Australian discovered that his kitchen ceiling had collapsed under the weight of two pythons.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Customs, CHCC quizzed on bill to increase tobacco revenue

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives met yesterday with the Customs Division and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to incorporate language to clarify the intent of a bill that proposes to amend the CNMI Excise Tax laws to increase revenues by taxing tobacco products.

Customs director Jose Mafnas and CHCC special assistant for Policy, Sustainability, and Development Kaithlyn Neises-Mocanu were the resource persons invited to the meeting. House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said they also solicited input from the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Finance, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Blanco said the committee will continue its deliberation on Sept. 10 at 10am in the House's chamber.

Blanco

House Bill 21-20, introduced by House floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), states that the CNMI's current definition of "cigarette" under its excise tax laws allows for certain tobacco products to escape taxation by being classified as "cigars" when, in fact, the products are more like cigarettes.

Sablan said these tobacco products are generally labeled as "cigars" or "filtered cigars" but, upon inspection, they are similar to cigarettes as they contain filters and may also be flavored.

He said the CNMI has lost significant tax revenues by allowing these "cigars" or "filtered cigars" to be taxed as cigars based on the labelling of these products.

Last April 23, the CNMI hosted a Fiscal Response Summit attended by leaders of various organizations and agencies in the public and private sectors. That summit generated other revenue-generating proposals that the CNMI could pursue.

Finance Secretary David Atalig said it's estimated that by implementing new rates and taxes, gross government resources can increase by $15.5 million. Atalig said the summit's proposal to impose a $1 increase on cigarettes (tobacco) products will have an estimated increase in revenue of $2.92 million. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tropical Storm Haishen moves away from Marianas

Tropical Storm Haishen continues to move away from the Marianas.

According to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, Tropical Storm Haishen (11W) was moving west-southwest at 8mph, with maximum sustained winds of 50mph.

Rain bands associated with Haishen may brush the northern islands and cause occasional heavy rain showers and thunderstorm bring brief wind gusts up to 40mph through the day.

Haishen will continue to move away from the Marianas today and winds will begin to decrease, as will the potential for heavy showers.

Dangerous surf of around 15 feet is likely to continue along west and north facing reefs through Friday.

Interisland travel by boat should be avoided the next few days due to winds and seas. Hazardous surf along west and north facing reefs is likely to continue through early next week as Haishen continues to send long-period swell toward the Marianas. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

LTDF temporarily halts Project Haligi

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation has halted Project Haligi 2020 for the moment due to the high number of applications.

The organization has received an overwhelming volume of applicants, exceeding the number of poles allotted for the stipend program.

"We have 30 waiting applications, and most of those artwork waiting are in the $300 approval rate," said first lady Diann Torres.

LDTF had applied for a federal grant through the National Endowment for the Arts. The non-profit organization was able to receive funding for about $18,000 for the

See LTDF on Page 4

Our Income Guidelines Have Changed

WIC CNMI

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) CNMI WIC Program (WIC) has new income eligibility guidelines. WIC has continued its efforts to ensure food access, breastfeeding support and reassurance for young families during the pandemic. WIC is available to the CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective June 22, 2020

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$23,606	$1,968	$984	$908	$454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each Add'l Member Add	+$8,288	+$691	+$346	+$319	+$160

Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions

An individual or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid automatically meet the income requirement.

Become a WIC Client

Call us at (670) 664-4084 to see if you qualify. In this new normal we continue to do remote services, so it is important to have a working number we can reach you at.

Essential Documents for everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC Program

- Identification for adults (Driver's License, Photo ID)
- Child's Identification (Shot Record, Birth Certificate, Crib Card)
- Proof of Income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of Address (Mail from CUC or NAP card)

For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, please call us at (670) 664-4084.

Stay informed and up to date with what is going on at WIC by visiting CNMI WIC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmichcc, www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram @cnmi.wic.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider. The program is funded by the United Stated Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, federal award #7NM700NM5).

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IPI extending contract of CW workers who want to stay

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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing said they are extending the contract of some of their 260 workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program who want to stay.

Xing said they hope that most of the CW workers will stay and then they will reopen the casino soon.

Xing shared IPI's plans about their CW workers in response to Rep. Ivan Blanco's (R-Saipan) question during Tuesday's House of Representatives Gaming Committee's meeting.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday how many of those 260 want to stay and will be renewed, Xing he can't tell as it's an ongoing process and that anyone can inform IPI about their future plans.

Xing

At a recent Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting, IPI Human Resources director Redie Dela Cruz said she can safely say that, of their 260 CW workers, about 95% of them are on furlough status.

At Tuesday's House meeting, Xing said they're still trying to figure out what would be the best time for them to reopen. "Right now we're under the requirement of the government to close the casino," he said.

The IPI official said the 260 CW employees fall into three categories: the ones who volunteered to leave or resign, ones that want to finish the full term of their contracts but are leaving, and the ones who want to stay.

For the first category or for those who volunteered to leave or resign, Xing said that three-fourth of their salaries is guaranteed and will be paid before they leave at the end of September 2020.

For those who want to go through the full term and leave around the end of September 2020 and don't want their contracts to be extended, Xing said that IPI will pay them right after the end of September or by the start of October.

"We'll schedule the payment and we'll pay for their repatriation cost," he said.

For the last category or those who want to stay, Xing said at this point they're extending everybody's CW contract.

He said they will pay them at the end of their current CW cycle. Xing said hopefully they will get the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' approval of their extension. "And hopefully, by the end of this year or early next year, we'll open the casino," he said.

Xing earlier clarified to *Saipan Tribune* that it's a legal requirement to pay three-fourths of the CW contract no matter what. "Whether we extend their CW or not, we need to pay the three-fourths for this year," he said.

He said if they extend CWs and don't open soon, it will be a burden for the company to pay the three-fourths next year.

"The new three-fourths will start on Oct. 1. So the later we open, the bigger the burden. Regardless, the three-fourth rule [is applicable] to both this year and next year," Xing said.

Bill to allow CEC commissioners to meet, vote online goes to the House

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REPORTER

The Senate unanimously passed last week a bill that would amend the election law to allow members of the Commonwealth Election Commission to conduct official business online as a means to get around COVID-19 restrictions.

Senate clerk Dolores S. Bermudes transmitted Senate Bill 21-67, SDI to House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) last Monday for action.

With the general elections fast approaching, CEC has been unable to conduct an official meeting in a safe and cost-effective setting. Igisomar's bill aims to resolve this by allowing the election commissioners to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means—provided that the commissioner is physically present in the CNMI.

Igisomar

The Senate also unanimously passed last week Senate Bill 21-68, SD2 that will suspend certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general elections to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill will extend the early voting time to 21 days and add more polling places. It will also extend the hours of operations for early voting and election day. The legislation will also authorize CEC to collect absentee ballots seven days before the general election.

The bill will give the CEC the flexibility to make changes to the election procedures if necessary to mitigate the public health risks due to the pandemic.

Igisomar said in an interview Wednesday that he came up with the legislations after talking with CEC about the Office of the Public Auditor's report that cited some CEC shortcomings.

"We started our communication about two to three months ago, with [Commonwealth] Election Commission and worked with them…," said Igisomar who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations.

As a result of that communication, he asked CEC if there is anything they would like him to assist them while he's researching on how they can improve the election process because of this pandemic.

With respect to Senate Bill 21-67, the senator said because of difficulties for CEC board members from Rota and Tinian to travel to Saipan due to of the COVID-19 situation, CEC asked to have the law amended to authorize board members to participate and vote during online meetings.

"I said, that's very easy. It's very simple. Don't worry about it. So that's why I took care of it," he said.

Igisomar said they expedited the bill filing and they asked CEC for their comments and feedbacks. "So that's why we went and passed it because they concurred. It [now] goes to the House. We hope the House will pass it as it is," he said.

The senator said the bill is important so that CEC cannot delay the election because there will be decisions that need to be made.

Regarding Senate Bill 21-68, Igisomar said authorizes the CEC to hold the election following the best practices during a pandemic. He said they identified some of those best practices, such as giving people the opportunity to avail of curbside voting and extending early election for 21 days.

Igisomar said they are giving CEC the opportunity to promulgate proper guidance on how this curbside voting will be implemented.

He said the bill proposes that during early election, there should be three sites and not just one so to spread the people out, so that they don't get too congested in one area. He said that was a CEC recommendation.

He said the bill allows CEC to work with the COVID-19 Task Force to make sure that they are able to hold this election while abiding with the task force's guidelines on social distancing.

Igisomar said he has already met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and told him about what's happening with the two bills.

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DOL released over $71M in PUA, FPUC benefits

As of Aug. 31, 2020, the CNMI Department of Labor has disbursed a total of $71,244,451.79 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to eligible claimants in the CNMI.

These payouts are the result of 9,016 total payouts with error-free PUA applications and weekly certifications.

After 12-hour days responding to inquiries, meeting with PUA clients, and processing claims, the department has made serious progress. Based on recent data, the department received a total of 9,800 online applications and 2,044 papers applications, totaling 11,844 applications in the CNMI. Of the paper applications, the department staff inputted more than 1,500 entries (initial applications, weekly applications, and supporting documents) into the online system.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has severely and negatively impacted the economy and the workforce nationwide. The CNMI is not immune to the financial devastation stemming from halted tourism, lost revenue, and reduced operations across the public and private sector.

On June 10, 2020, CNMI DOL received federal funding to begin implementation of the PUA and FPUC programs. Contrary to claims made by certain elected officials, the CNMI received its federal funding for PUA two weeks after the Guam Department of Labor did.

The received funding only allowed for the hiring of 10 PUA coordinators and two PUA supervisors, including staff for Tinian and Rota. With the assistance of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the department was able to "borrow" reassigned staff from various government agencies for this critical priority. With the additional helping hands, more PUA applications were being processed and adjudicated by CNMI DOL.

In addition to the lack of manpower, CNMI DOL had to address program ambiguities, technical issues, and regulatory delays—all while ensuring compliance with precautionary health measures against the spread of the COVID-19.

However, understanding the urgency and need for assistance, CNMI DOL launched the new programs only seven days after receiving the necessary startup funds on June 10, 2020. Since launch, CNMI DOL conducted several community outreach events to educate the public about the employer verifications, the online application process, eligibility requirements, and frequently asked questions.

In an additional statement, CNMI DOL said: "It is appalling to see our delegate to the U.S. Congress compare PUA claims [in] Guam to here in the CNMI, as Guam received their PUA funding and guidance first, while the CNMI had to wait for additional guidance before starting its program.

"While CNMI DOL has worked very hard to implement this program, our U.S. delegate has not done his duty to work with his colleagues in Congress to ensure eligibility for CW workers, a policy advocated by Gov. Torres and Secretary of Labor Vicky Benavente.

"Instead, he provided false hope and chooses to point fingers at hard-working government employees within CNMI DOL who are working diligently to serve the CNMI within federal guidelines.

"In the meantime, the CNMI government has worked with nonprofit organizations to help families in need through the various food drives on island.

"CNMI DOL understands the importance and need for getting assistance to our workers. We recognize our role and the work that it is mandated to do. The CNMI Department of Labor remains committed to serving this community." ***(PR)***

STORIES

From Page 1

help in getting assistance so they could obtain their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation checks.

In a letter to Sablan yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that, as he has reiterated in previous correspondences with Sablan, this pandemic is not something that either of them should politicize. "My administration continues to put forth every effort to keep the people of our Commonwealth as safe as possible. While our efforts so far have been successful, I would prefer that matters of concern be better addressed for the people of our Commonwealth," Torres said.

The governor asked the delegate to refrain from using open letters "to capitalize on existing issues and, instead, work together" toward addressing them.

To date, Torres said, of the over 10,000 applications received, the CNMI Department of Labor has already processed and issued the PUA and PFUC to about 7,000 CNMI applicants and are diligently working to review and process the remaining and new applications.

Sablan said Guam has processed 35,000 checks and is now processing the claims filed on a weekly basis, and has issued $400 million into their economy from the unemployment compensation program. In the Northern Marianas, Sablan said, the government is still processing backlogs of applications. "This is not how a government treats its citizens," he said.

The delegate said it would be interesting to know if there are people who have received their initial claim and have also received payments for their subsequent claims.

What's more frustrating for people, Sablan said, is that they are told by Department of Labor staff that their papers are complete and that all they need to do is wait to get their check. "And so they patiently wait for weeks for some, only to receive nothing," he said.

Sablan said individuals even have names of the Labor staff who have assured them twice, for some thrice, that they should expect the help soon, to no avail.

"Phone calls go unanswered. And if the phones are answered, they are told to leave a message and to expect someone to call them back. Weeks go by and no return calls," Sablan said.

The delegate said emails are unanswered and no one picks up the ringing phones, despite that there are people inside the offices who hear the ringing. When phone calls do get answered, they are told that the person answering the phone cannot provide answers to the caller's questions. Callers are asked to leave their name and phone number and to expect a return call.

"Days, weeks even, no return calls. And so they call again, only to be told once again to leave a name and a number where they could be reached since they will get a return call," Sablan said.

He said people have no choice but to keep trying and to keep experiencing the frustrations that continue to be dished out to them.

Sablan said emails get no response, or not even acknowledged that they are received.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CDC

From Page 1

Disease Control and Prevention, said states "in the near future" will receive permit applications from McKesson Corp., which has contracted with CDC to distribute vaccines to places including state and local health departments and hospitals.

"CDC urgently requests your assistance in expediting applications for these distribution facilities and, if necessary, asks that you consider waiving requirements that would prevent these facilities from becoming fully operational by Nov. 1, 2020," Redfield wrote.

He wrote that any waivers will not compromise the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine. The Associated Press obtained the letter, which was first reported by McClatchy.

The CDC also sent three planning documents to some health departments that included possible timelines for when vaccines would be available. The documents are to be used to develop plans for early vaccination when the supply might be constrained, according to one of the documents, which outlined a scenario in which a vaccine could be available as soon as the end of October.

"The COVID-19 vaccine landscape is evolving and uncertain, and these scenarios may evolve as more information is available," the document reads.

Another of the documents says that limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available by early November and that supply will increase substantially in 2021.

EVICTIONS

From Page 1

family can self-isolate and thereby restrict the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, which CDC describes as "a historic threat to public health."

"Under this order, a landlord, which is the owner of a residential property, or other person with a legal right to pursue eviction or possessory action, shall not evict any covered person from any residential property in any jurisdiction to which this order applies during the effective period of the order," said the CDC order. A covered person is any tenant, lessee, or resident of a residential property provided by a landlord.

Although this is good news for people who are on the brink of eviction, this order is only a moratorium, a temporary prohibition of an activity, and does not provide any relief for individuals who are obligated to pay rent, make a housing payment, or comply with any other obligation that individuals may have under any contract that includes: tenancy, lease, or similar contracts. This means that renters will still be required to pay back the full amount they owe once the order expires in December.

The CDC order also prevents the charging, collecting of fees, penalties, or interest as a result of not paying rent or other housing payment in a timely matter. CDC also stated that in order to use the order, the individual must provide a copy of the declaration form to their landlord, or owner of the residential property, or the person who has the right to get them evicted or removed from where they are residing.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CNMI

From Page 1

Wednesday.

Right now, there is no other economic activity in the CNMI since tourism is the Commonwealth's No. 1 industry, he added.

Attao underscored the Commonwealth's current situation in relation to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's request to, among other things, be allowed to put off paying the $15.5 million annual casino license fee it owes this year until 2029.

Attao said that hashing out a payment plan for IPI is possible, but he does not think it's realistic to just remove that requirement because of the CNMI's current financial situation. Right now, he said, they need to work on sitting down and understanding the process and what IPI's situation is.

"We also got to be cognizant of the…CNMI's situation…where obviously everybody is hurting financially," Attao said.

He said that Tuesday's meeting in the House of Representatives' chamber with IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne and IPI senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing gave him a broader understanding of why IPI came up with its latest list of proposals in its Aug. 26 letter.

In that letter, Browne accused the CNMI of being in violation of the exclusive license that IPI holds for allowing poker machines and e-gaming to operate outside of the casino.

Attao pointed out that Public Law 18-56, which allowed casino gaming on Saipan, came after Public Law 18-30, which allowed e-gaming in the CNMI, and the poker arcades started back even before the '90s or probably the '80s. "So that was my take on the letter. I was very, I was thrown off by the way they wrote their letter about the exclusivity," Attao said.

"In my opinion in reading P.L. 18-56 it is exclusive and the law itself is very specific of the industry. And the license of the industry covers everything that's in the facility itself."

As for the $15.5 million that IPI owes this year, Attao said it's something that the Legislature needs to address. IPI was supposed to pay that casino license fee last Aug. 12 for Year 6 of the Casino License Agreement. Now it wants to pay that amount on the 15th year of the license.

Attao said the members of the 19th, 20th, and 21st Legislatures inherited the casino industry that was agreed to in the 18th Legislature. As members of the 21st Legislature, they walked into agreements that happened before their time.

"But we have to make sure that the success of businesses in the CNMI is there. And they're able to be successful. Then it'll hopefully entice other types of businesses to come and invest in the Commonwealth," he said.

LTDF

From Page 2

artists' stipends. Each artist will be receiving a stipend of $100-$300 (depending on level of art) for each completed pole.

Torres stated that there are about nine artists that have been paid and 30 artists waiting for approval, finishing up their poles, and waiting to pick up their paint supplies. "We have probably completed about 30 painted poles," said Torres.

The organization has extended the project to Saipan's neighboring islands. "We are still waiting for poles to pop up on Tinian and waiting for artists. And the payment for artwork on all poles on Rota are donated by the Rotary Club of Saipan," she said.

Project Haligi was born out of the need to spread hope. 'Haligi' is a Chamorro word that translates to 'pole.' These power poles will not only be used to spread a message of hope and strength, but will also be designed to help beautify the islands for our people and visitors, Torres said.

For program information and updates, visit LDTF on Facebook and Instagram. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Man who has evaded bench warrants faces sentencing

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man who was found guilty of multiple charges still faces the possibility of sentencing despite failed attempts to apprehend him and bring him before the court.

The prosecution in the case against Jiang Hong Sheng has asked the Superior Court to continue his sentencing in absentia.

To date, Sheng has not been apprehended nor turned himself in and therefore has not been sentenced.

Prior to trial and during the pendency between conviction and sentencing, Sheng was released on a cash bail of $6,250 but when he failed to appear for the March 26, 2019 sentencing hearing, a bench warrant was issued.

On July 21, 2020, the court reissued a bench warrant against Sheng for his failure to appear, and set no bail.

However, because there has been no order issued since then, the Commonwealth, represented by assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. renewed its motion to sentence Sheng.

Both parties in the case submitted sentencing memos on March 26, 2020, and a sentencing hearing was set for March 31, 2020, but it was vacated and delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Jan. 21, 2020, the court determined that it would sentence Sheng in absentia and set a date for the hearing and deadline for the parties to submit sentencing memos.

Sheng's jury trial was held in May 2018, and he was found guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

On May 25, 2018, the defendant filed a post-conviction motion for a judgment of acquittal, which the court denied.

The following month, the defendant filed a notice of appeal alleging various trial issues for appeal. On Nov. 6, 2019, the appeal was dismissed because there was no final judgement from which the defendant could appeal.

Sentencing was set for Nov. 27, 2018, but because of the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu back in October 2018, and the time it took for the Office of Adult Probation to prepare the pre-investigation report, the sentencing was reset for March 26, 2019.

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35th International Coastal Cleanup 2020 CNMI

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT www.dcrm.gov.mp

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25 middle schoolers complete summer math camp

Twenty-five CNMI middle school students completed the three-week virtual summer math camp program called Project BEAM that was sponsored by the CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies.

Held from July 20 to Aug. 7, 2020, under the direction of Dr. Dora Miura and Vina Duenas, the virtual sessions offered hands-on math activities, real-world applications, project development, and distance learning.

Duenas said that majority of the students enjoyed the hands-on activity called "OrderUp!" because they got to bake a cupcake. Other students said they enjoyed the math lesson on the volume and surface area of a rectangular prism, square pyramid, and composite shapes.

"They were able to challenge their mathematical minds and learn new concepts by building on old ones," Miura said. "I would say that the biggest challenge was the online platform. Creating a community of thinkers is less challenging when everyone is physically together and can interact, laugh, and struggle together."

Miura offered this tip for students who are passionate about math and are considering math as a career: "The STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field is burgeoning. With this pandemic, we can readily see the value of having people know what they are doing to help in the capacity of healing, treating, and preventing. If you find yourself interested in any STEM field, don't be intimidated by the technical aspect of it. Don't be afraid to seek others with your same passion so that you can struggle and grow together in an effort to be part of the STEM field profession. We live on an island that is physically isolated from the rest of the world and is limited in its resources. Your eventual technical expertise will help the CNMI become more innovative in ways we solve problems that can help us become more sustainable."

On the last day of math camp, Aug. 7, students presented their final research projects, which were completed individually or as a group. Topics included water pollution, diabetes, inequality, littering, reading, underage drinking, economy, gender awareness, global warming, pandemic, and energy conservation. After the presentations, UCEDD program staff did a focus group meeting with the students to get their feedback on their math camp experiences:

"I learned about other subjects including history and technology...I really liked the program."

"I had a lot of fun working with my classmates."

"Working in a group is engaging."

"My relationships are related to math. Most of my friends are liking math or loving it."

Despite some challenges, the students credited their family, friends, and instructors for encouraging them to do well.

Miura and Duenas have a combined 29 years of teaching experience, with 18 years dedicated to math. In 2015, Miura was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching, whereas Duenas began her teaching career at Saipan Southern High School teaching various math subjects.

Project BEAM is a five-year project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program. The purpose of this project is to promote STEM participation and help middle school students to improve their math skills and accomplishments. CNMI UCEDD is in its third year implementation of Project BEAM. Last year, Dandan Middle School and Hopwood Middle School students participated in Project BEAM.

For more information about the UCEDD program email cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu or call 237-6801. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

ALFRED FLORES FLEMING and ROSALIA ALDAN FLEMING, Deceased.) Civil Case No.: 19-0108 T) NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: ALFRED FLORES FLEMING and ROSALIA ALDAN FLEMING, Deceased.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Deborah Aldan Fleming for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 17th day of September, 2020 at 9 a.m., at the Tinian Courthouse, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Deborah Aldan Fleming; Telephone: (670) 483-0174.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedents,: Alfred Flores Fleming and Rosalia Aldan Fleming, or of their estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

SULC donates 10 trash bins to Hopwood

The Saipan Unity Lions Club and the Teen Unity Leos Club donated 10 freshly painted trash bins, recycled from used empty drums that were donated by community sponsors, to the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School last Wednesday.

The Saipan Unity Lions Club later said in a statement that this project aims to help to maintain cleanliness in the campus and hopefully instill in Hopwood students the habit of keeping their surroundings clean wherever they may be.

This project was led by SULC president Lion Alicia Barbo, FVDG Lion Atoy Banting, Leo president Vicky Ancheta, and Leo adviser Lion Lhita Cuevas. Present during the turnover were the school's administrative staff Victorino Borja, Benjamin Seman, and Hopwood Parents Teachers Students Association president Francis Sablan and their vice president, Mildred Ebuen.

The statement said the club and its members are committed to provide more trash bins in the future as they become available. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club and the Teen Unity Leos Club donate 10 empty drum cans to the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School last Wednesday to be used as garbage bins.

Scheduled power outage on Sept. 8

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, from 9am to 1pm for the areas of Tanapag (areas north of the Tanapag Mobil Gas Station), Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

This will allow CUC linemen to safely replace rusted power pole hardware, deteriorated cross arms and rotted primary poles in the affected areas. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working areas. This project is a continuance from last week's project.

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Feeder 7 Circuit

■ Project location: Tanapag Mobil Gas Station (main road) going north

■ Power service area(s) affected: Tanapag (areas north of the Tanapag Mobil Gas Station), Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

■ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: SR-1, SR-2, and SR-3

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

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Chalan Kiya
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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-2020

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECHO DOCK AT THE PORT OF SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposal, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the Development of the Echo Dock situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)). This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning August 27, 2020, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of $200.00 payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". ***Payment shall be by cash or certified cashier's check.***

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 2020, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend. All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2020 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2020 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2020
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2020 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their proposals sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-007-20). Five (5) hard copies and one CD of the proposal must be submitted no later than ***4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 30, 2020***, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:_____

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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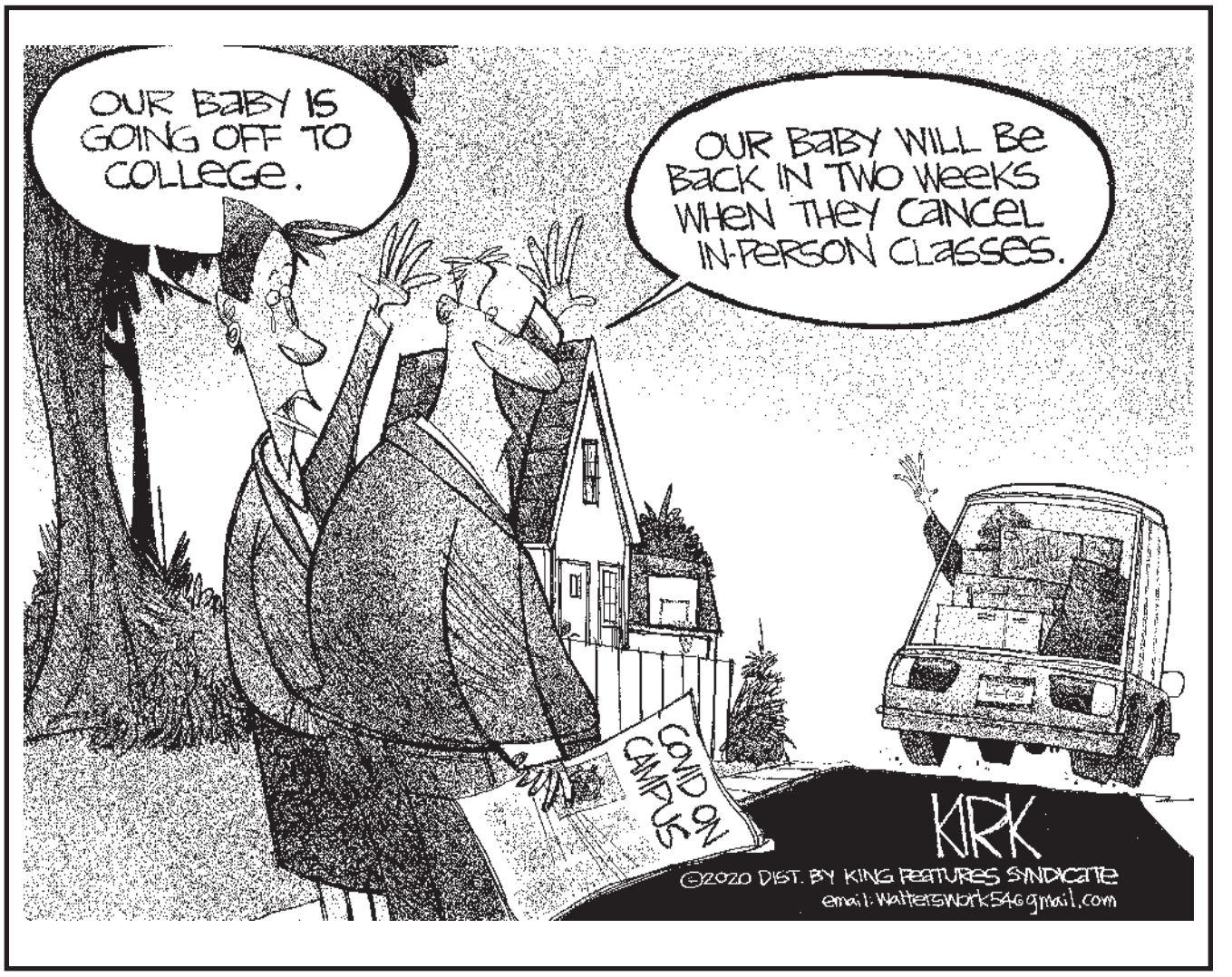
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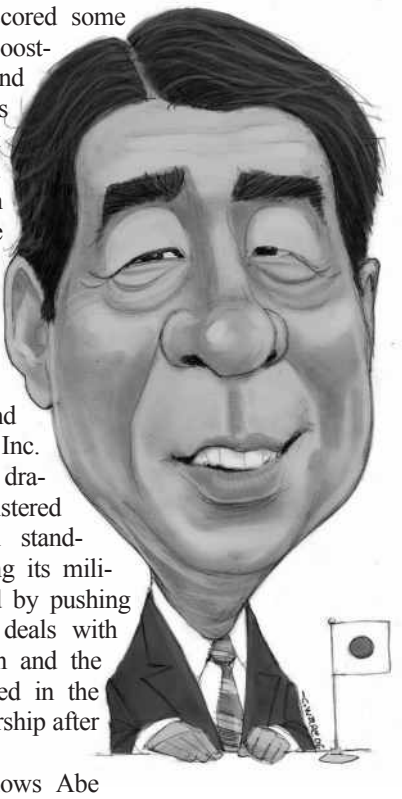
EDITORIAL

Shinzo Abe had a lot of time, but not enough

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his pending resignation last week for health reasons, he had been in office for nearly eight years, the longest such stint in Japanese history. But even that wasn't long enough to fulfill the potential of his premiership. His successors would be wise to appreciate why.

Abe will rightfully be remembered for the many changes he did manage to push through. His three-pronged "Abenomics" program of loose monetary policy, fiscal stimulus and structural reforms scored some initial successes—boosting growth, stocks and employment. His government brought an unprecedented number of women into the workplace and immigrants into the country. Corporate governance reforms have begun to change the complexion of boards and behavior in Japan Inc. And, perhaps most dramatically, Abe bolstered Japan's geopolitical standing, by strengthening its military capabilities and by pushing through free trade deals with the European Union and the nations that remained in the Trans-Pacific Partnership after the U.S. withdrew.



Yet whoever follows Abe will confront challenges almost as great as he did. The fact is growth, wages and inflation never really picked up sustainably; now, after pandemic-related lockdowns, the economy has shrunk to the size it was before Abe took charge. A huge $2.2 trillion stimulus and continued monetary largesse from the Bank of Japan should help cushion the blow. Nevertheless, the list of unfinished tasks is long. Regulations that stifle entrepreneurship and innovation still need to be slashed. A seniority-based employment system that impedes mobility and wage growth needs to be shaken up. Too many Japanese remain trapped in irregular work with few benefits and career prospects.

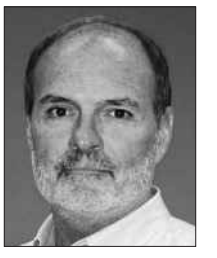
Even in areas where Abe made a good start, much work remains. The precariousness of most women's jobs has been revealed by the pandemic; more needs to be done to address gender pay gaps and provide women with sufficient flexibility and child-care support to develop stable careers. Many of the business reforms promoted by Abe's government ended up being more limited than originally envisioned; it will take an equally forceful leader to persuade boards and CEOs to continue improving Japanese corporate culture. Broader

See SHINZO on Next Page

Traditional classroom is another casualty of the pandemic

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



My college teaching career began when the epitome of high tech in the classroom was an overhead projector and a pull-down projection screen. By the time it ended, several decades later, I could teach my classes from home, if I wanted, and never lay eyes on an actual student outside of a computer screen.

But I never wanted to. I had nothing particular against online education, nor do I gainsay colleagues who eagerly embraced it during my last years of teaching.

Nevertheless, I declined to move my classes online. My field, writing, involves skill and even a little art. The techniques that I used to help students develop more writing competence did not seem as easily transferrable to an online classroom as those used in a large lecture-based course. Or so I thought.

But my real reasons for resisting the shift online had less to do with pedagogy than with people. A traditional college class is all about people. It's a unique social situation that coalesces almost randomly semester by semester around a convenient meeting time and the requirements of individual degree plans.

For 16 weeks, 25 or so students meet two or three times a week with a teacher who eventually will have to make decisions about how much they have learned. Because I taught in a large community college my students represented a broad range of humanity, diversified by race, age, educational background, innate ability and life experiences. Some were fresh from high school; others had families and even grandchildren. Some had been in the Army and seen combat in Iraq or Afghanistan; others had been in prison and were trying to put their lives back together.

Some students were diligent and dedicated, never missing class and always doing their assignments; some students were good-natured and funny, and others, surly and taciturn, slouched in the classroom's back row. Some students could have succeeded at any college or university; others were lucky to have survived high school. During some semesters, I could see a light flash on brightly in the minds of some students; others maintained a modest dim glow.

Over time, leaders and followers emerged. Friendships developed, and sometimes romances. Sometimes women gave birth during the semester and others, presumably, became pregnant. Occasionally a single mom would ask if her child could sit quietly in the back of the room. One semester two students were killed in separate car crashes; I recall how one of them, a tired, petite young woman, fought to stay awake in the front row on the day she lost control of her car on the way home.

There were successes, disappointments, competition, complaints, discouragement, occasional enlightenment and sometimes some real laughs. We learned, I hope, about writing, and we also learned about each other. In short, the in-person college classroom is an extraordinarily rich amalgam of humanity, and I found it endlessly fascinating.

Unfortunately, the traditional classroom was under some threat before Pandemic 2020 struck. Online education offers economies of scale that colleges and universities—always hard pressed for funds—find attractive. Online classes are convenient for working students and parents, and many offer opportunities for self-pacing that may help some students learn.

Still, as the pandemic is forcing more colleges to resort to online classes this fall, students are beginning to demand tuition discounts. According to an Associated Press story last week, students are arguing that "online classes fail to deliver the same experience they get on campus. Video lectures are stilted and awkward, they say, and there's little personal connection with professors or classmates."

Precisely. Students understand this inherently: Whatever the virtues of online education, many students crave, and benefit from, a personal connection. And so do their teachers. They find a "classroom" conducted online about as satisfying as a funeral staged on Zoom.

But COVID-19 is calling the shots, and the experiences of this fall will likely affect higher education after the pandemic is under reasonable control. May one of its lessons not be that online education can provide all of the learning experiences of the traditional classroom. It can't.

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Wikipedia falsely said I was convicted of attempted murder. I expected online abuse, but not this

By NAOMI ISHISAKA
The Seattle Times

Naomi Ishisaka is a columnist for The Seattle Times.

I knew when I took this job it would come with online and offline slings and arrows.

Online blowback is par for the course when writing a column on race and social justice for a general audience. I also knew that my gender, ethnic background and sexual orientation would make me a target for identity-based abuse, and that has definitely proved true. In addition to the feedback that questions my intelligence and viewpoints, there are race-based comments such as ones asking me to atone or apologize for the actions of the Japanese government during World War II, using racist language I would not want to repeat.

I have unfortunately become pretty numb to a lot of it, but I was not at all prepared for what my sister found after Googling me on Aug. 24. At the top of her search results was a Wikipedia page that said, "... Naomi Ishisaka is an American writer and a former convict for attempted murder."

The page, published on Aug. 8, said that when I was 14 and a high school student in a Seattle suburb, I shot my classmate, was convicted and imprisoned. It said that while I used the pen name "Naomi Ishisaka," my real name was similar but not exactly the same.

I was in shock. I expected online harassment but never imagined it would look like this. I immediately assumed someone had created the page as a retaliatory attack for my recent writing on the racial justice movement and policing.

After Googling the other person's name, it turned out there was a shooting in 1991 by someone with a similar name and ethnic background, but we were not the same age, or from the same city, and went to different schools. I am not naming the person because she was a teenager when she was convicted, and the shooting happened 30 years ago.

With the help of friends and colleagues, I scrambled to figure out how to get the page removed, how to get Google to stop promoting the page, how to prove who and where I was in 1991 and how to prevent the misinformation from spreading further on the internet.

And it wasn't just a Wikipedia page, Google had created a "Knowledge Panel" when you Googled me that talked about my actual work as well as my conviction for attempted murder plus my other supposed aliases. When you searched my name, suggested searches included (and still do) "who did Naomi Ishisaka shoot." When you search the other person's name, my picture is the first to appear.

One of my eagle-eyed co-workers found a Wikipedia page that was discussing the reports of mistaken identity that we had submitted. In it, the person who created my page—who has the ironically named handle "Factfanatic1"—was asked how they came to conclude that we were the same person. Factfanatic1 said they assumed just based on our names that we must be, even though there was no substantiation to be found. Factfanatic1 later admitted they had made an error in linking us but wanted the page about the woman who shot her classmate to be preserved, because "a lot of work was put into it." To their credit, the admins said that they would not reinstate the page, in part because it was a "serious" violation of Wikipedia's rules around Biographies of Living Persons.

A spokesperson from Wikimedia, the foundation that hosts Wikipedia, said that the guidelines on biographies are designed to safeguard against what I experienced. They also said, again ironically, that there was no way for them, me or anyone to know the identity of Factfanatic1 out of concern for the editors' security and to protect against doxxing (publicly sharing private information on the internet), and that the user had "retired" themselves after the page was deleted.

It was some small comfort that instead of a malicious attack, it appeared I was the victim of just good old-fashioned everyday racial ignorance and sloppiness. Factfanatic1 apparently could not fathom that there could be two separate people with similar "ethnic" names from the same part of the world so they just slapped us together and no one noticed for weeks.

But the situation got me thinking about something I had already thought about a lot: the impact of pervasive online harassment on women journalists and especially women of color journalists.

According to a survey of women and gender nonconforming journalists by the Committee to Protect Journalists, 90% of U.S. respondents said online harassment was the biggest threat they faced.

Seattle University Associate Professor Caitlin Carlson coauthored a paper on "Online Harassment of U.S. Women Journalists and its Impact on Press Freedom" and interviewed more than 100 women journalists last year. Most of the women she interviewed said that negative feedback went beyond their work to target them personally, focusing on their gender and sexual orientation. Attacks were most frequent when women journalists covered topics that were seen as the domain of men, or topics that were controversial, such as immigration, race or feminism.

Carlson said while survey respondents said they didn't shy away from controversial topics due to harassment, a strong majority believed that online harassment impacted press freedom for women journalists in the U.S.

The biggest threat, Carlson said, is that the grind of anonymous online harassment and the threat of even more dangerous attacks like doxxing, swatting or personal defamation, will make women, nonbinary and trans people think twice about joining an already tenuous profession. This, when a multitude of voices in journalism is critically important.

Harlo Holmes, the director of San Francisco-based Newsroom Digital Security at the Freedom of the Press Foundation, said women—and especially women of color _have been the "canaries in the coal mine" for a long time when it comes to online harassment.

While she said she didn't know if the problem would get worse, she was "prepared to be surprised by how it gets different ... The new tool, the new tactic that people are going to use in order to continue to harass, stalk, terrify and otherwise place a chilling effect on the work that people like yourself do."

Labor Day 2020: Workers need power

By KATHY WILKES
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Labor Day 2020 doesn't have much for us everyday wage earners to celebrate. We're struggling to pay bills and keep safe as COVID-19 runs its odious course. Our nation has bungled its response to the crisis, and we are paying the price.

In July, the U.S. unemployment rate stood just above 10%, down from a more-than-70-year high of 14.7% in April. More than 51 million people have filed for unemployment benefits, over 16 million lost employer-provided health insurance and 26 million are hungry.

Lack of federal leadership and scattershot "reopen" plans in states are driving COVID-19 spikes all over the country. The virus has infected more than 6 million Americans, killing more than 180,000. Thousands on the front lines of essential services have died.

As U.S. workplaces become more dangerous, President Donald Trump's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is lying down on the job. Offering only "guidelines" employers can ignore, the agency isn't enforcing the law requiring workplaces to be "free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm."

Where's Congress? Missing in action.

Bills passed in the Democratic-controlled House linger while the Republican-dominated Senate remains adjourned into September. Stimulus talks between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasurer Steve Mnuchin, who gets his marching orders from the White House, are stalled. Expanded unemployment benefits and eviction protection have expired, leaving millions desperate and scrambling.

Meanwhile, no expense is spared for the richest Americans. They've gotten trillions in tax cuts, pandemic "relief" and other largesse on top of their already gargantuan wealth that has mushroomed during the crisis. Somehow, the Federal Reserve has managed to scrounge $7 trillion for bond and stock buys to prop up corporations and keep executive compensation in the ozone.

Let's be honest: One big reason all this is happening is that labor has lost power. Our energies are diverted by the politics of division along lines of race, gender and nationality. We're sapped by hucksters capitalizing on our impotence and rage. We're drained from squabbling among ourselves.

This is nothing new. In 1886, robber baron Jay Gould reportedly bragged, "I can hire one-half of the working class to kill the other half."

America's rich never got over the fact that workers gained some labor rights in 1935 and, through organizing, formed a movement that eventually created the greatest middle class in history. That's gone now. After decades of government-sanctioned union busting, offshoring and automation, we're almost back to square one, careening toward catastrophe.

We need to get back on track.

Here's a start: Let's think carefully about elected officials who really have our backs and who are just playing us. Turn off the noise and look closely at what they do and how they vote versus what they say to the cameras. Let them know we're watching and then hold them accountable by supporting only those who help us survive and thrive.

Next, we must connect with the larger labor movement, which is exclusively devoted to the interests of working people. Meeting with area labor councils, we can learn about our rights, discuss needs and priorities and avail ourselves of community services they offer—all with an eye toward deploying our collective strength.

First steps can be intimidating. But, given where we are now, we may have no other choice. There's a proven way forward with courage and commitment. It worked before. It can work again. It's time to get our power back.

Kathy Wilkes of Madison, Wisconsin, is a longtime labor journalist and former union co-founder and officer. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

SHINZO

From Page 8

changes will be required if Japan is to attract the number and quality of immigrants the country really needs.

Abe can claim perhaps his greatest achievements in the international arena, where he has built Japan into a forceful advocate for the liberal, rules-based global order, both in partnership with the U.S. and, when it comes to free trade, on its own. He has also been instrumental in developing a regional response to China's rise, as well as providing a much-needed alternative to Chinese investment around the world. Yet here, too, one wonders what more could've been accomplished had Abe avoided unnecessary distractions, such as a futile trade spat with South Korea and a long and controversial campaign to revise Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution—the so-called peace clause.

Such heedless efforts may help explain why Abe backed off from pushing more drastic economic reforms earlier on, when his mandate was at its strongest. If Japan is to meet its steep demographic, financial and strategic challenges, his successors cannot afford to make the same mistake.

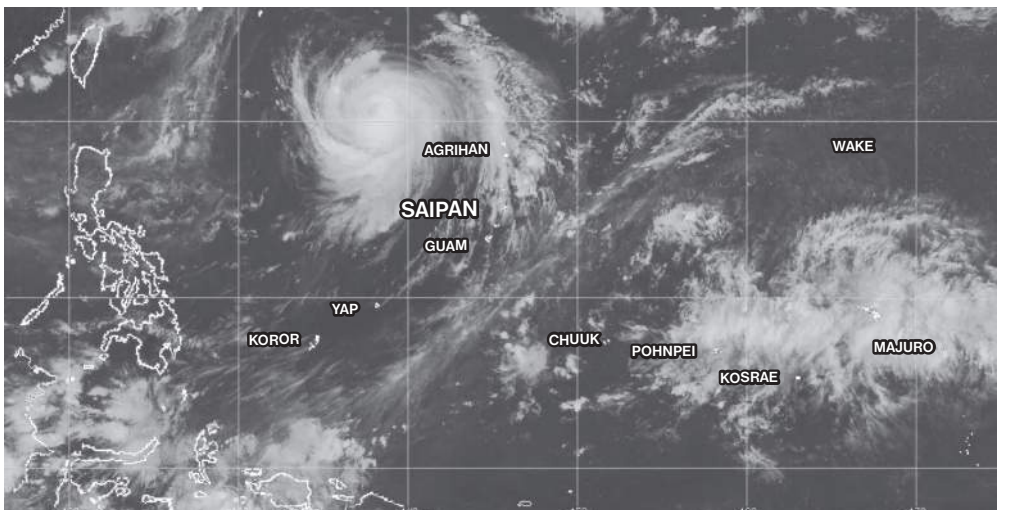
(c)2020 Bloomberg News

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89° 77°	89° 78°	86° 76°	86° 76°	86° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:19 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Earlier forecast depicted a band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms forming over the local area in the morning. Satellite and radar imagery did show a band but it was further west of the islands. The local area is close enough to the activity so that mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms are possible this morning. High pressure building across the area will cause a decrease in showers and clouds by this afternoon. Deep layer moisture will remain limited through at least Sunday with only isolated showers expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:27 AM	7:56 PM
Saturday	-	8:14 AM	8:31 PM
Sunday	-	9:00 AM	9:06 PM
Monday	-	9:47 AM	9:42 PM
Tuesday	-	10:35 AM	10:21 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Manila	Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	84° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Paris	Sunny	73° / 55°
Busan	Rain	79° / 73°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 68°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	75° / 61°
Seoul	Rain	75° / 66°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.85
8:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
3:12 PM	LOW TIDE	0.34
9:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

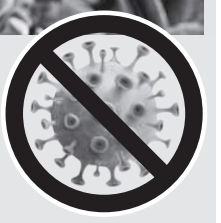
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD



The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MCS ready to start face-to-face classes

Mount Carmel School is ready to start face-to-face classes should Gov. Ralph DLG Torres lift the implemented restrictions on schools come Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020. If current restrictions are adjusted to allow schools to resume face-to-face classes, MCS will open its doors starting Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, after Labor Day.

"Our target date for face-to-face instruction was scheduled for Aug. 31, 2020, but we understand that safety must always come first," said Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "Since the directive, we've simply taken advantage of this opportunity to ensure all safety measures are ready for face-to-face learning. We've continued to work closely with the governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Department of Public Works to review and improve all our safety measures."

Dividers are installed in all offices and restrooms to provide an additional layer of protection.

MCS

Mount Carmel School contracted Ampac, Ltd. to install UVC lighting fixtures in each classroom to sanitize the circulated air.

MCS

Mount Carmel School has adopted the CNMI Policies and Procedures for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Educational Institutions to guide its own safety measures in its school handbook.

Over the past few months, Mount Carmel School has invested considerable time, money, and effort into retrofitting its campus to meet and exceed guidelines set forth by the COVID-19 Task Force.

All desks are separated 6 feet to promote social distancing and a UVC lighting fixture in each classroom to sanitize the circulated air. Where possible, student desks will have a plexiglass shield to minimize airflow between students.

MCS

Floor markers are set all over campus to guide and ensure physical distancing of 6 feet. Where possible, student desks will have plexiglass shields to minimize airflow among students. Dividers have been installed in all offices and restrooms to provide an additional layer of protection. New washbasins have been added around the campus to promote handwashing for all students, teachers, and parents. To sanitize the circulated air, Mount Carmel School contracted Ampac, Ltd., to install a UVC lighting fixture in each classroom. These fixtures are safely positioned to avoid any contact with students, teachers, and parents. Mount Carmel School has contracted Sablan Topline Corp. as their commercial cleaning provider, which is the same provider for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice a day—once in the morning before students and teachers arrive and once after students and teachers leave. Common areas, like restrooms, the cafeteria, and offices, will be cleaned more frequently throughout the day.

Campus areas that could attract assemblies and congregations are closed off. These areas include the playgrounds, the gym, and the canteen.

To ensure students are safe during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, Mount Carmel School has also implemented new student drop-off and pick-up procedures. The detailed procedures are available on the MCS website, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com, where you can learn more about other measures that school is taking to keep students and employees safe. ***(PR)***

Thank You for SHAPING our FUTURE

United States® Census 2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

Business

ICE ISLAND:

Shaved ice, cakes, and a haven to relax

Business partners from left, Jenny Xu, Liza Gao, and Richard Peng.

PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

One of the best desserts in the world is now here on Saipan. Newly opened Ice Island located in Garapan serves popular Taiwanese dessert called Bao Bing or shave ice that will definitely satisfy your shave ice craving anytime.

"We opened last July 25 braving the pandemic because one of our goals is to provide a place for the community where they can sit down, relax, think, help ease burdens that the pandemic has brought while enjoying our shave ice," Ice Island vice president Richard Peng said.

For more information, call (670) 233-8822

"We opened because there is not a lot of shops like this on island and establishing Ice Island is perfect for the weather of Saipan, like an all year-round summertime. Our target is the local community and currently not a lot of people have a stable job that is why our prices caters to what people can afford these days," Peng added.

Ice Island has five shave ice flavors that will surely catch the local community's taste. They have strawberry, taro, honey dew, mango, and yogurt as a healthy option. These items are served in a bowl with generous serving of garnishes like red beans, jelly, grape pudding, passion fruit syrup, amd many more.

Ice Island's Mango Shave Ice is made from locally grown mangoes, sweetness is guaranteed natural.

Shave ice comes in small size for only $3.75 with two choices of toppings and large size for only $5.75 with three choices of toppings. Both small and large bowls are meant for two or more people to share.

"Most of our ingredients are imported but for our taro and mango shave ice, we use local ingredients to complete the dessert. Sometimes flavors may vary depending on the local fruits that are in season because we definitely want to maximize local ingredients," Peng said.

"Our customers can manage the level of sweetness of the shave ice. They can also add toppings that they like from the choices that we have… the same goes for our pearl milk tea" Peng added.

Aside from the different flavors of shave ice, Ice Island also serves mousse cake and pastries like muffin, cream puff, and egg tart that are all homemade. "The pastries can be paired with the hot or cold coffee. They are baked fresh everyday and as much as possible we try to finish the pastries within the day that we offer buy-one, take-one after 8pm," Peng said.

"We only make the items when we need it so everything is served fresh and we follow COVID-19 protocols such as taking temperature, getting names of customers, hand sanitizing, and social distancing," Peng added.

The interior of Ice Island is very relaxing, spacious and gives you ease as you enter with soft music playing in the background. Parking is available in front and WiFi is available. "We want everyone to come and sit down even if you do not order, you are still welcome. With the pandemic, I believe that you can put pressure on yourself for a little while but not too long," Peng said.

"We need a place to socialize and relax. Students can come here to study and office people can have small meetings and Ice Island is that kind of place. Future plans include hiring more local employees and more items in our menu," Peng added.

Ice Island is located along Beach Road in Garapan. They are open from Monday to Sunday, 10:30am-9pm. For more information, call (670) 233-8822

The relaxing ambiance at Ice Island will surely make you want to stay and order for more.

Business owners tap into savings to withstand pandemic

NEW YORK (AP)—When the coronavirus outbreak forced cruise lines to cancel trips to Alaska, it wiped out Midgi Moore's tour business, leaving her with thousands of dollars in deposits to refund.

Moore's company, Juneau Food Tours, didn't have enough cash on hand. So, she withdrew $30,000 from her retirement account—a painful decision for a 56 year old starting to look forward to the day when she can stop working.

"It was a gut punch," Moore says.

Many business owners are tapping the money they socked into personal savings and retirement accounts to withstand the pandemic. For some, like Moore, there are big expenses coming due while for others it's a way to offset the losses and stay afloat until the virus eases its grip.

Owners are trying to keep their businesses alive at a critical time for the U.S. economy. Small businesses employ nearly half the nation's work force. In April, payroll provider ADP reported nearly 20 million jobs were lost at U.S. companies and said more than half were at businesses employing under 500 people. Many economists expect a sizable portion of those job losses will be permanent.

A report issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that 2% of small businesses surveyed had shut down permanently in March, a number that certainly has increased since, meaning it's likely hundreds of thousands of businesses have failed. The government's Paycheck Protection Program helped by giving out more than 5.2 million loans to small businesses and non-profits. But owners and advocates say struggling companies need more help from Congress, and lawmakers themselves are urging the Federal Reserve to expand its lending to small and medium-sized businesses.

United plans to furlough 16,000 workers, fewer than expected

United Airlines said Wednesday it plans to furlough 16,370 employees in October, a smaller number than the airline predicted in July because thousands of workers agreed to leave with the travel industry facing a slow recovery from the pandemic.

Airline officials had outlined 36,000 potential furloughs in July. Since then, thousands of workers took early retirement, buyouts, or long-term leaves of absence.

United officials said the forced job cuts will begin Oct. 1, when a prohibition on furloughs ends. They said the furloughs would be postponed if Washington approves another $25 billion to help passenger airlines cover payroll costs.

Flight attendants will bear the brunt of the cuts, with 6,920 getting furlough notices. About 2,850 pilots, 2,260 airport-based employees, 2,010 maintenance workers and 1,400 management and support staff would also lose their jobs.

The figures do not include the 7,400 employees who took buyouts or early retirement. Up to 20,000 more accepted reduced work schedules or took voluntary leaves lasting up to 13 months.

Most union employees in the airline industry whose jobs are cut have rehiring rights—management and administrative staff generally do not. United began the year with 96,000 employees, 84% of whom were represented by unions.

The flight attendants' union said United's announcement understates the job losses. The union said more than 15,000 flight attendants will leave the United payroll unless Washington approves more payroll aid for airlines, and another 3,400 who stay to keep health insurance will get no guarantee of work or income.

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,572.00	29,047.00	12,377.00
-7.25	-43.00	-34.50
-0.20%	-0.15%	-0.28%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.37	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	74.69
British Pound	0.75	Indian Rupee	72.93	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.31	Japanese Yen	106.27	South Korean Won	1,165.79
Chinese Yuan	6.75	Malaysian Ringgit	4.12	Swiss Franc	0.91
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.48	Taiwan Dollar	28.91
		Philippine Peso	47.72	Thailand Baht	31.38

Nation

Budget deficit to hit record $3.3T due to virus, recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal budget deficit is projected to hit a record $3.3 trillion as huge government expenditures to fight the coronavirus and to prop up the economy have added more than $2 trillion to the federal ledger, the Congressional Budget Office said Wednesday.

The spike in the deficit means that federal debt will exceed annual gross domestic product next year—a milestone that would put the U.S. where it was in the aftermath of World War II, when accumulated debt exceeded the size of the economy.

The $3.3 trillion figure is more than triple the 2019 shortfall and more than double the levels experienced after the market meltdown and Great Recession of 2008-09. Government spending, fueled by four coronavirus response measures, would register at $6.6 trillion, $2 trillion-plus more than 2019.

The recession has caused a drop in tax revenues have fallen, but the changes are not as dramatic as seen on the spending side, with individual income tax collections running 11% behind last year. Corporate tax collections are down 34%.

The economy shut down in the spring so people could be in isolation, in a failed national attempt to defeat the pandemic. That shutdown led lawmakers and President Donald Trump to pump money into business subsidies, larger unemployment benefits, $1,200 direct payments and other stimulus steps that have helped the economy in the short term.

Most economists are untroubled by such huge borrowing when the economy is in peril, and the debt was barely a concern when a cornerstone $2 trillion coronavirus relief bill passed almost unanimously in March.

But now that lawmakers and the White House are quarreling over the size and scope of a fifth virus relief bill, Republicans are growing skittish at the enormous costs of battling the pandemic. The Democratic-controlled House passed a $3.5 trillion measure in May, though House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., says she is willing to cut that figure to $2.2 trillion.

Caseloads remain unacceptably elevated, however, as the virus exacts a painful, lingering toll on the economy and sentiment remains high for a fifth virus rescue package that would include money to reopen schools, patch state budgets and continue enhanced jobless benefits that have kept families afloat.

Among Republicans, there seems to be less ardor for a deal—at least at what they see as unfavorable terms. GOP leaders had been pressing for a package in the $1 trillion range, but party talks during August have focused on a smaller package.

The enormous deficit is bringing the federal debt, as measured by the size of the economy, near levels not experienced since the end of World War II, when explosive borrowing to finance the war effort caused a historic spike. But those levels quickly receded during the postwar boom—something that won't happen now, since federal spending is now dominated by retirement programs like Medicare and Social Security, whose costs increase automatically with inflation and the ongoing retirement of the Baby Boom generation.

Deficit scolds have long warned that rising levels of debt will serve as a drag on the economy in the coming years. If interest rates rise too high, servicing the debt will put significant strain on the budget. The Federal Reserve has stepped in to keep credit markets stable and interest rates low for years as debt levels have risen.

"At a certain point, Washington's insatiable borrowing needs will crowd out other investments and harm growth," said Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the conservative Manhatten Institute. "Washington should help end the pandemic and rescue the economy, yet must also address these unsustainable long-term deficits."

By year's end, the publicly held national debt will total 98% of the U.S. gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services. That compares with 79% of GDP at the end of 2019 and 35% back in 2007.

The CBO projected that the debt would exceed 100% of GDP in 2021 and set a new record high of 107% in 2021.

CBO, the nonpartisan economic and research arm of Congress, predicts that deficit will total $13 trillion over the coming decade.

Biden: Trump ignores pandemic, stokes unrest, solves neither

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Joe Biden is calling the struggle to reopen U.S. schools amid the coronavirus a "national emergency" and accusing President Donald Trump of turning his back to stoke passions instead about unrest in America's cities.

The Democratic presidential nominee's broadsides came a day ahead of his own trip to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where Biden said he wants to help "heal" a city reeling from another police shooting of a Black man. The wounding of Jacob Blake and subsequent demonstrations have made the political battleground state a focal point for debate over police and protest violence, as well as the actions of vigilante militias.

Biden assailed Trump for his vilifying of protesters as well as his handling of the pandemic that has killed nearly 190,000 Americans and crippled the national economy, leaving millions out of work, schools straining to deal with students in classrooms or at home and parents struggling to keep up. An American president, Trump's challenger declared, should be able to lead through multiple crises at the same time.

"Where is the president? Why isn't he working on this?," Biden asked. "We need emergency support funding for our schools—and we need it now. Mr. President, that is your job. That's what you should be focused on—getting our kids back to school. Not whipping up fear and division—not inciting violence in our streets."

Trump answered almost immediately with his own event in North Carolina, where he continued casting the protests generally as "violent mobs here at home" that must be met with a strong show of force. "These people know one thing: strength," he said. If local leaders would ask for federal muscle, Trump said, "We'll have it done in one hour."

Trump later tweeted, "My Administration will do everything in its power to prevent weak mayors and lawless cities from taking Federal dollars while they let anarchists harm people, burn buildings, and ruin lives and businesses." To that end, he signed a memorandum directing agencies to review federal funding sent to Seattle, New York City, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

The opposing Biden and Trump events reflected the clear fault lines of the general election campaign. Each man casts the other as a threat to Americans' day-to-day security, but Trump uses "law and order" as his rallying cry while Biden pushes a broader referendum on Trump's competence, temperament and values.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER:
DENTAL CARE, INC.

THE POSITION:
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRER

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Test, adjust, or repair biomedical or electromedical equipment. Biomedical equipment technician, radiology equipment servicer, surgical instrument mechanic.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least high school graduate.
EXPERIENCE: With at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Medical Equipment Repairer.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must have a certificate of work experience in the field of dentistry technician; Must be able to show the ability to maintain dental instruments, Cavitron, sterilizer, x-ray and developers, suction pumps; and Must be able to dismantle and reconstruct dental chairs.

Job Site: D' Torres Bldg., Suite 103, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:
SCOT L. THOMPSON
DENTAL CARE, INC.
Office Address: D' Torres Bldg., Suite 103Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10001, PMB 807, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address:
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Telephone Numbers: (670) 287-7268

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Job Title: Operations Manager

Job Duties: Supervise an entire department consisting of 20-25 employees. Inspect project sites to monitor progress and ensure conformance to design specifications and safety or sanitation standards. Estimate quantities and Cost of Materials, equipment or labor to determine project feasibility. Direct engineering activities ensuring compliance with environmental safety, or other governmental regulations. Make property operations, maintenance and repair progress reports as required by management.

Qualifications Requirements: High School Graduate. Minimum 3-5 years field and theoretical experience including proper understanding of all engineering drawings, designs, concepts, and applications. Practical and applied knowledge of engineering science and technology. Experience in Hotel, Property or Project Management is a plus. Honest, Motivated, Punctual, Reliable, Team-work oriented. Workplace & environmental safety practice, knowledge & practice.

Resumes may be submitted to the HR Department, 2nd Floor, JP Center Beach Road, Garapan during Office Hours: Monday through Friday ~ 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. or via email no later than September 10, 2020. For additional inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact the HR at Tel. No. (670) 235-0561 Ext. 131 or Email : lnt_recruitment@tanholdings.com

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS (W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030, *Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells"*,** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Asia

Thailand hits 100 days with no local virus transmissions

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister on Wednesday congratulated the nation for having achieved 100 days without a confirmed locally transmitted case of the coronavirus, even as security along the border with Myanmar is being stepped up as a measure against the disease.

Health officials did not highlight the achievement, but Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha described it as a "good accomplishment" toward making the country safe. He used the occasion to urge the government and people to work together to bring the country out of the COVID-19 crisis.

"If we don't help each other, none of us can move forward and the country can't move forward, and the people will suffer more than they already have," he said.

Thailand has sustained relatively light health damage from the pandemic, even though in January it was the first country outside China to confirm a case. But its economy has been devastated by the absence of foreign tourists, who are banned from entry, and by a drop in exports.

Thai health authorities reported eight new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, all in people arriving from abroad, bringing the country's total to 3,425, including 58 deaths.

The country's last locally transmitted case was confirmed on May 24 and announced on May 25. According to the Department of Disease Control, it involved a 56-year-old Thai woman who had end-stage kidney disease, diabetes and hypertension as underlying conditions. She was admitted to the hospital with difficulty breathing and tested positive for the coronavirus, dying the same day as the test results. Only one more person has been listed as dying from the disease since then.

New Zealand and Vietnam are two other major countries that have had similar long streaks of no reported cases of local transmission. New Zealand went 102 days before discovering new cases last month, and Vietnam went about 99 days before a new local outbreak. New Zealand reinstituted restrictions after its new outbreak, including a lockdown of the city of Auckland. Taiwan also has gone over 100 days without local transmission.

Thailand has gradually eased most of the virus-fighting restrictions it imposed starting in March, with the significant exception of continuing to bar most foreign visitors. The government has been wary of reopening the country, scuttling or postponing several plans. However, there is a possibility that a pilot project allowing a small number of foreign tourists into the southern tourist island of Phuket under strict conditions may soon be implemented.

Most recently, Thai authorities have been alarmed by surges in cases in neighboring Myanmar.

New Taiwan passports to emphasize distinction with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan plans to issue new passports emphasizing its independent identity and downgrading connections with China.

The foreign ministry on Wednesday released images of the new document that features "Taiwan" in large capital letters on its cover and minimizes the English wording "Republic of China," the island's official name according to its constitution.

Taiwan was handed over from Japanese to Chinese rule in 1945. Four years later, Chiang Kai-shek relocated the Republic of China and its institutions to the island as Mao Zedong's Communist Party swept to power on the mainland in the Chinese Civil War.

Taiwan has since shrugged off political connections with China as part of its transition to full democracy. However, it has retained Republic of China as its official name, along with the constitution, flag and state institutions brought from China.

Despite the political divide, China continues to claim Taiwan as its own territory and has required foreign countries and multinational companies to refer to the island as a part of China.

Asked about the passport change at a daily briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said "the fact that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China will never change" regardless of what "tricks" are played by the governing pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party.

Beijing also responded angrily when "Taiwan" was added to the cover of the Taiwanese passport more than a decade ago and has increasingly lashed out at assertions of the island's political independence.

China does not recognize Taiwanese passports and requires citizens of the island traveling to the mainland to use a Chinese-issued document.

The change in passport design, to take effect in January, aims to prevent confusion between travelers from Taiwan and those from China, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told reporters.

Flash floods triggered by rain kill 15 people in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Flash floods triggered by heavy rains killed 15 people and damaged scores of houses in Pakistan's scenic northwestern Swat Valley, a spokesman said Wednesday, as rescuers assisted residents in the port city of Karachi where last week's rains wreaked havoc that killed dozens.

The latest floods-related fatalities were reported from the Swat region, a popular tourist destination where landslides overnight blocked a key mountain road, stranding scores of tourists who were being evacuated, said Taimur Khan, spokesman for a disaster management agency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Heavy monsoon rains hit parts of Pakistan last month, triggering flash floods in the country's financial capital of Karachi and elsewhere in southern Sindh province, killing at least 47 people there. Since June, when rains began lashing Pakistan, at least 176 people have been killed across the country, according to the national disaster management agency.

Last week, Karachi's many neighborhoods were flooded and water is still being pump out from submerged streets.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was expected to visit Karachi to meet with residents and get a briefing about damages caused by the monsoon rains, which came as authorities have been trying to contain the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected more than 296,000 people and killed 6,318 since February.

World

Germany says Soviet-era nerve agent used on Russia's Navalny

BERLIN (AP)—Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the same type of Soviet-era nerve agent used in a 2018 attack on a former Russian spy, the German government said Wednesday, provoking outrage from Western leaders who demanded Moscow provide an explanation.

AP

In this file photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny speaks to the media prior to a court session in Moscow, Russia.

The findings—which experts say point strongly to Russian state involvement—added to tensions between Russia and the West. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning attempted murder, meant to silence one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics.

The Berlin hospital treating the dissident said he remains on a ventilator though his condition is improving. It said it expects a long recovery and still can't rule out long-term effects on his health from the poisoning.

The German government said that testing by a German military laboratory showed "proof without doubt of a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group." British authorities identified Novichok as the poison used on former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England.

"There are very serious questions now that only the Russian government can answer, and must answer," Merkel said.

The United Kingdom and Italy also called on Russia to explain what happened, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling the use of a chemical weapon "outrageous." In Washington, National Security Council spokesman John Ullyot tweeted that it was "completely reprehensible."

"We will work with allies and the international community to hold those in Russia accountable, wherever the evidence leads," Ullyot said.

The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, said any use of chemical weapons was "a breach of international law."

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk after the plane made an emergency landing.

He was moved two days later to Berlin's Charite hospital, where doctors last week said initial tests indicated Navalny had been poisoned.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the Russian ambassador was summoned to his ministry Wednesday after the latest findings.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, dismissed the finger pointing as a knee-jerk reaction. "Today accusing #Russia is a must-do for any Western country," he said in a tweet.

In Moscow, Russian authorities were quick to blame Germany for not sharing its findings.

Venezuela opposition politician breaks with US-backed Guaidó

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A popular opposition politician in Venezuela broke on Wednesday with U.S.-backed leader Juan Guaidó, whose coalition has vowed to boycott the crisis-torn nation's upcoming congressional elections claiming they're rigged.

Henrique Capriles said he's determined to fight for fair elections on Dec. 6, despite obstacles created by socialist President Nicolás Maduro.

"We aren't going to hand over the National Assembly to Maduro as a gift—never," Capriles said. "If he's going to take anything away from us, he's going to have to do it by force, which only looks bad for him."

Capriles, 48, said he's forging a new path that will offer struggling Venezuelans an option to standing on the sidelines as Maduro gains a monopoly on power amid an opposition election boycott. Venezuelans have no other option but to press for political change, he said.

Capriles himself can't run in the elections since he's been banned from politics by Venezuelan authorities, though he remains an important player behind the scenes. And it's unclear how he would field candidates or what his decision to break with the boycott will concretely imply.

Following his comments, his Justice First party tweeted that it will meet on Thursday.

"In the face of the events that have occurred in recent days, we want to announce to Venezuelans that tomorrow our National Directorate will gather to establish a position in front of Venezuelans," it said.

But Venezuela's Supreme Court, loyal to Maduro, recently ordered the takeover of several influential political parties, including Capriles' Justice First party. The move included suspending and replacing the board of directors of each party. It was unclear what the party leaders gathering Thursday can do.

Capriles' announcement shattered a streak of unity spanning 18 months for Venezuela's opposition movement. The coalition in early 2019 rallied around Guaidó, who claimed he would oust Maduro and quickly won backing from dozens of nations, including the United States.

This moment of hope, however, fizzled when Guaidó's initiatives failed to remove Maduro, including a supposed military uprising. Maduro maintains power with key international supporters, including Russia and Iran, as well as the backing of Venezuela's military.

Off The Wall

Airline crews report jetpack flier near Los Angeles airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration and the FBI said Tuesday they are investigating reports from airline pilots that someone was flying in a jetpack as they approached Los Angeles International Airport to land last weekend.

"Two airline flight crews reported seeing what appeared to be someone in a jetpack as they were on their final approaches to LAX around 6:35 p.m. PDT Sunday," the FAA said.

The statement did not elaborate.

The Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday that the FBI has launched an investigation.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller told the Times that agents at the airport were investigating after the pilot reported the incident to the control tower. "The FBI is aware of the reports by pilots on Sunday and is working to determine what occurred," the agency said in a statement.

Fox 11 Los Angeles obtained recordings of communications between the aircraft and the tower.

"Tower, American 1997, we just passed a guy in a jetpack," a pilot said.

"American 1997, OK, thank you, were they off to your left side or your right side?" the controller asked.

"Off the left side at maybe 300 yards or so at our altitude," the pilot said.

Another pilot also reported a sighting.

"We just saw the guy pass by us in the jetpack," he said.

The controller then advised another aircraft flight crew to use caution.

"Person in a jetpack reported 300 yards south of the LA final at about 3,000 feet (914 meters), 10-mile (16-kilometer) final," the controller said.

Industry expert David Mayman was dubious that it was a jetpack spotted by the pilots.

"It's very, very unlikely with the existing technology," said Mayman, CEO of the Los Angeles-based company Jetpack Aviation. "I'm open to being surprised. But I don't think there's anyone working on technology that could do a flight from ground level to 3,000 feet and then come back down again."

Mayman speculated that it could have been a drone, but he added that 3,000 feet was on the high end of what most drones were capable of.

2 pythons weighing 100 pounds collapse ceiling in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian returned home and was surprised to discover that his kitchen ceiling had collapsed under the weight of two large pythons apparently fighting over a mate.

David Tait entered his home in Laceys Creek in Queensland state on Monday and found a large chunk of his ceiling lying on his kitchen table.

"I knew we hadn't had rain, so I looked around to find what had caused it," Tait told Nine Network television on Tuesday.

He soon found two culprits—non-venomous carpet pythons 2.8 meters (9 foot, 2 inches) and 2.5 meters (8 foot, 2 inches) long—that had slithered into a a bedroom and living room. The snakes have an estimated combined weight of 45 kilograms (100 pounds).

AP

In this photo provided by Steven Brown, a snake slithers out the door of a home at Laceys Creek, Australia, Monday, Aug. 31, 2020.

Snake catcher Steven Brown was called to remove the two snakes.

"I would assume that it was two males fighting over a female that was nearby in the roof," Brown said. He suspected the female could still be in the ceiling or nearby.

The males were returned to the wild, but the suspected third snake hasn't been found.

770-pound crocodile caught at Outback tourist destination

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—Wildlife rangers have trapped a 4.4-meter (14.5-foot) saltwater crocodile at a tourist destination in Australia's Northern Territory, the biggest caught in the area in years, a wildlife ranger said Monday.

The 350-kilogram (770-pound) male was caught in the Flora River at a remote nature park 120 kilometers (75 miles) southwest of the Outback town of Katherine, said Katherine senior wildlife ranger John Burke.

A larger 4.7-meter (15.5-foot) croc was trapped three years ago in the same wildlife management zone, but that one was caught in the Katherine River, which is closer to the sea, Burke said. He said he did not know of a larger croc caught in the Flora River.

Crocodile numbers have been increasing across Australia's tropical north since federal law made them a protected species in the early 1970s.

"They certainly are increasing (in number), and that's part of the reason we have the management zones—to reduce the numbers in high-visitation areas so there's less chance of interaction between salties and people," Burke said, referring to saltwater crocs.

The captured croc had been taken to a crocodile farm to become part of a breeding program. Farmed crocodiles can be killed for their meat and leather.

The crocs are trapped in large cages baited with wild pig and other meats and submerged in waterways.

1 of 3 cubs orphaned by famous bear's death captured

LEBANON, N.H. (AP)—One of three black bear cubs orphaned by the recent death of their famous mother was captured Monday morning and will be taken to a rehabilitation center for the winter.

Officials have been searching for the cubs since Tuesday, when the mother bear known as Mink was found dead. She had gained fame when New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu spared her life in 2017 and when she traveled thousands of miles in a looping route through Vermont and New Hampshire to return to her home territory after being relocated to nearly the Canadian border.

Andrew Timmins, bear project leader for New Hampshire's Fish and Game Department, said the male cub was captured near Route 10 in West Lebanon.

"We're getting reports of the other two being in the area," he said. "The reporting has been very helpful, and I think we'll continue to be successful."

Although officials initially thought Mink had been hit by a car, a necropsy performed Thursday at the Kilham Bear Center in Lyme suggested she died of natural causes. Ben Kilham told the Valley News the procedure also revealed that the bear, previously thought to be in her teens, was between 20 and 30 years old.

Kilham will care for the 8-month-old cub over the winter and release it in the spring. Its siblings were believed to have been spotted off Route 120 near the Hanover-Lebanon line Saturday, and authorities are hopeful they are traveling back to their den and stomping grounds near the Mink Brook Nature Preserve.

Mink had been set to be euthanized, along with three of her earlier offspring, in 2017 after repeated problems with them feeding from trash and bird feeders culminated in two bears entering a home in Hanover. Sununu instead ordered them to be moved to far northern New Hampshire. One of the yearlings was killed within weeks by a hunter in Quebec, Canada.

Police: Man snatches shop tip jar after applying for job

NORTH CATASAUQUA, Pa. (AP)—After a man ran off with the tip jar at an eastern Pennsylvania pizza shop, investigators didn't have to do a lot of legwork to track him down.

Nicholas M. Mark, 22, had just applied for a job at the establishment, leaving his name and contact information, authorities said.

A worker at Pizza D'Oro in North Catasauqua told authorities that Mark came to the shop Aug. 26 to apply, but at one point snatched the tip jar off the counter and ran outside. The worker said he set off in pursuit, but backed off when the suspect produced a knife, authorities said in an affidavit of probable cause.

The suspect ran into the woods near the parking lot with the jar, which authorities say contained $220.

His backpack was found containing multiple items bearing his name as well as items associated with drugs in the restaurant, authorities said—and since he had applied for a job, the staff also had his name and phone numbers. The pizza shop employee and other witnesses picked Mark out of a photo lineup, authorities said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Wheel-y mysterious: Hamster DNA find baffles German police

BERLIN (AP)—German police said Wednesday they are losing hope of finding out who left on a train a box of vials with hamster DNA, which caused alarm in the southwestern town of Heidelberg last week. Federal police sent a bomb squad to investigate after a train driver found the styrofoam box with three vials of liquid on a local train Friday. Forensic specialists later determined that the liquid contained genetic material from rodents. Officers had hoped to crack the case by publicizing the unusual find, but despite intense media interest the owner has remained elusive so far, said Jan Doering, a federal police spokesman. Doering said police had already disposed of the vials as the cold chain had been broken. Heidelberg is home to several research centers, including the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

3-year-old girl safe after being lofted by kite in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A 3-year-old girl in Taiwan was reported safe after becoming caught in the strings of a kite and lifted several meters into the air. The unidentified girl was taking part in a kite festival Sunday in the seaside town of Nanlioao when she was caught up by a giant, long-tailed orange kite. Video shot at the scene showed her twisting several times above a crowd of adults who struggled to pull the kite back to earth. News reports said the girl was frightened but suffered no physical injuries in the incident.

John Oliver: Name sewage plant for me, I'll give to charity

Comedian John Oliver upped the stakes in a tongue-in-cheek spat with a Connecticut city, offering to donate $55,000 to charity if officials follow through on a joke to name its sewage treatment plant after him. Mayor Mark Boughton said last week that Danbury was going to rename the facility the John Oliver Memorial Sewer Plant, in response to Oliver's expletive-filled rant against the city on a recent episode of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver." "Why? Because it's full of crap just like you, John," Boughton said in a video posted on his Facebook page. Oliver's Danbury diatribe came on his Aug. 16 show, in which he explored racial disparities in the jury selection process, citing problems three decades ago in Hartford and New Britain in Connecticut. He then seemingly randomly went off on Danbury. On Sunday's show, Oliver said he was surprised and delighted by the city's response. But then he went off on another rant after playing a video of Boughton saying it was just a joke. "Wait, so you're not doing it? Aw (expletive) you, Danbury," Oliver said. "You had the first good idea in your city's history and you chickened out on the follow through. What a classic Danbury move. Listen, I didn't know that I wanted my name on your (expletive) factory but now that you floated it as an option, it is all that I want." Oliver offered to donate $55,000 to Danbury-area charities, including $25,000 to the Connecticut Food Bank, if the city renamed the plant after him. If not, Oliver said he would make charitable donations to "rival" towns including Waterbury and Torrington. ***(AP)***

Science & Technology

Samsung touts $2,000 foldable phone as a 'VIP' experience

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Samsung's second attempt at a foldable smartphone will come with a $2,000 price tag and a few elite perks aimed at affluent consumers still able to afford the finer things in life during tough times.

The phone, dubbed the Z Fold2, will include a VIP package that will provide access to fancy restaurants and golf clubs to supplement the device's multipurpose design.

When folded up, the device looks like most other phones. But when its interior 7.6-inch screen is opened up along its side hinges, it is quickly transformed into the equivalent of a mini-tablet.

AP
In this undated photos provided by Samsung, Samsung's foldable phone is displayed.

"It's definitely a luxury device," said Drew Blackard, Samsung's vice president of mobile product management in the U.S.

Samsung provided a glimpse of the Z Fold2 last month while unveiling other new phones that cost at least $1,000, but waited until Tuesday to provide details about how much it will cost and when it will be in stores. Anyone willing to pay the Z Fold2's lofty price will be able to place an order online beginning Wednesday. It will be available in stores Sept. 18.

That will give the Z Fold2 a slight jump on Apple's next wave of iPhones. Those are expected to be released in October, a few weeks later than usual because of supply problems lingering from overseas factories that shut down during the early stages of the pandemic.

The Z Fold2 is supposed to be sturdier than last year's inaugural model. That initial foldable device proved to be far more fragile than Samsung had hoped, even after delaying its release by several months in an effort to fix issues noticed by people who received review models. Even with this year's improvements, the Z Fold2 will require special care that Samsung will explain in instructions accompanying the device.

The South Korean technology giant is hoping the versatility will infuse some excitement in a smartphone market that hasn't seen many breakthroughs aside from better cameras and other minor tweaks. The lull in innovation has caused more people to hold on to their existing phones for longer periods, dampening sales for Samsung, Apple and other manufacturers.

The new phone will also be equipped with the technology required to work on new ultrafast wireless networks known as 5G that are rolling out. That's another advantage over older phones that Samsung believes will prod more people to consider splurging on a new device.

Blackard cites another reason new phones are likely to draw interest: Even as more people work from home on laptop and desktop computers, they also have been using their mobile devices more frequently. In some cases, the usage is up by 50%, he said, based on the data that Samsung.

Even so, Blackard conceded that the Z Fold2 is likely to have limited appeal at a time when the recession has caused the U.S. unemployment rate to soar and is forcing millions of households to pinch pennies just to pay the monthly rent or mortgage.

In an effort to reach all ends of the market, Samsung recently introduced a 5G phone, the Galaxy A51, that sells for $500.

Remitly nearly doubles its global reach for immigrants

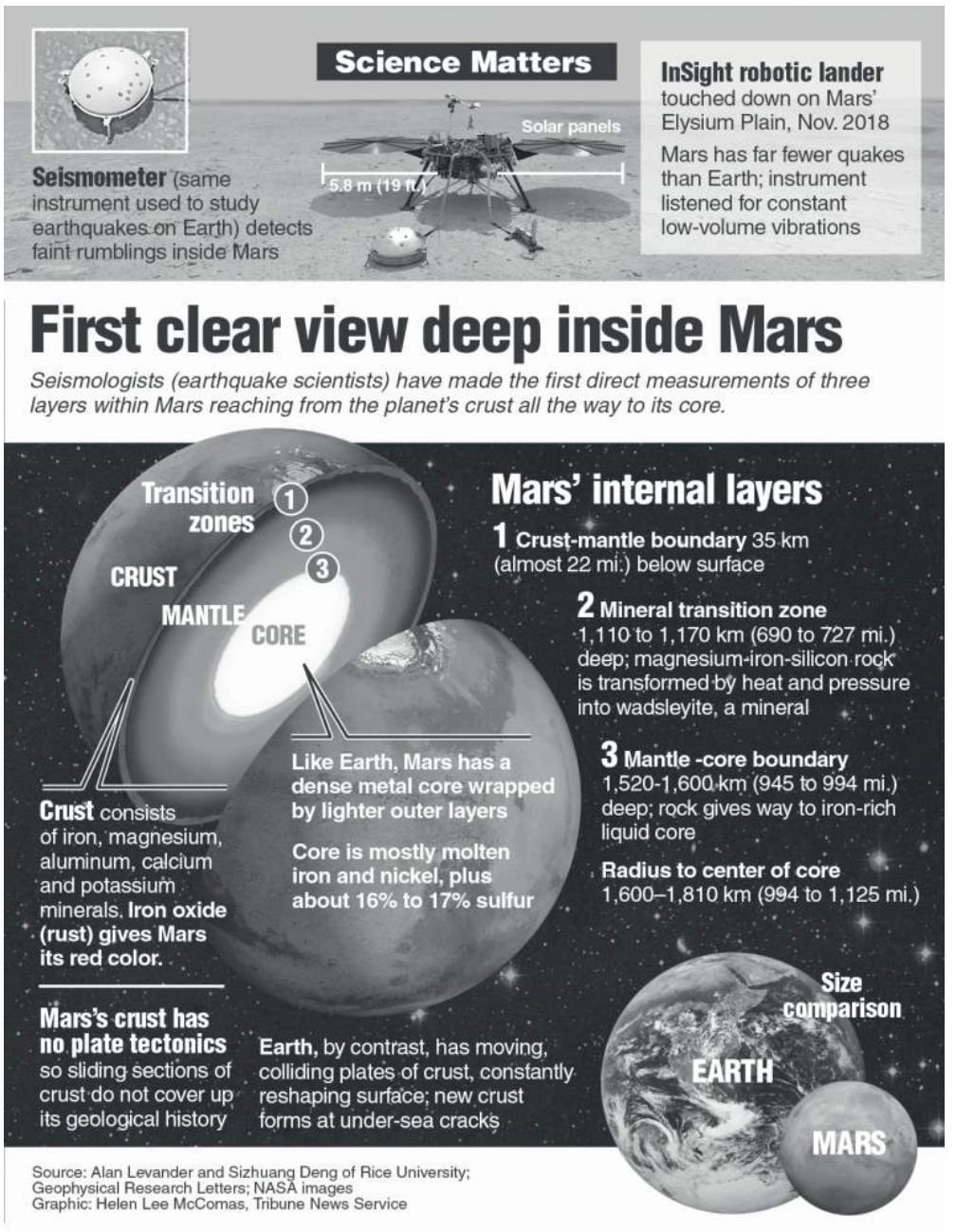
SEATTLE—Pandemic business is booming for a Seattle company that enables immigrants to send money to overseas relatives through their mobile phones.

Remitly announced Wednesday that, since February, its mobile wallet network has expanded to 300 million customers from 160 million after the company provided more money-forwarding options for immigrants living in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Nick Moiseff, the company's vice-president of product, said demand for mobile wallets has surged during the pandemic as users forego more traditional brick-and-mortar companies used to transfer cash.

"Given the COVID-19 scenario, they can't go in and send physical cash," Moiseff said. "So, they're moving online to players like Remitly. So, we're seeing about a 200% year over year growth in new customer acquisition."

For those in other countries receiving the money, he added, the mobile wallet transactions also simplify matters "because cash pickup locations and the traditional ways of receiving funds are either closed, or they have limited hours of operation, or folks are afraid to physically go into branches to pick up funds." ***(The Seattle Times)***


Science Matters
InSight robotic lander touched down on Mars' Elysium Plain, Nov. 2018
Mars has far fewer quakes than Earth; instrument listened for constant low-volume vibrations
Solar panels
5.8 m (19 ft.)
Seismometer (same instrument used to study earthquakes on Earth) detects faint rumblings inside Mars
First clear view deep inside Mars
Seismologists (earthquake scientists) have made the first direct measurements of three layers within Mars reaching from the planet's crust all the way to its core.
Transition zones
1
2
3
CRUST
MANTLE
CORE
Mars' internal layers
1 Crust-mantle boundary 35 km (almost 22 mi.) below surface
2 Mineral transition zone 1,110 to 1,170 km (690 to 727 mi.) deep; magnesium-iron-silicon rock is transformed by heat and pressure into wadsleyite, a mineral
3 Mantle -core boundary 1,520-1,600 km (945 to 994 mi.) deep; rock gives way to iron-rich liquid core
Radius to center of core 1,600–1,810 km (994 to 1,125 mi.)
Like Earth, Mars has a dense metal core wrapped by lighter outer layers
Core is mostly molten iron and nickel, plus about 16% to 17% sulfur
Crust consists of iron, magnesium, aluminum, calcium and potassium minerals. Iron oxide (rust) gives Mars its red color.
Mars's crust has no plate tectonics so sliding sections of crust do not cover up its geological history
Earth, by contrast, has moving, colliding plates of crust, constantly reshaping surface; new crust forms at under-sea cracks
Size comparison
EARTH
MARS
Source: Alan Levander and Sizhuang Deng of Rice University; Geophysical Research Letters; NASA images
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q&A: Strategies to keep spam from flooding your inbox

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: I am constantly receiving spam through my Comcast e-mail service. I block these e-mails to reduce the flow of junk, but inevitably the blocked e-mails repeat and I receive the message "this e-mail is from a blocked sender." If the e-mails are blocked, why do I keep getting them?

A: Comcast doesn't really block individual e-mail addresses. Instead, you must set up a "spam filter" that labels a certain type of e-mail as unwanted junk and sends it to the spam folder (see tinyurl.com/y4eyj87c). If you don't set up this filter, the unwanted e-mail goes to your inbox, although it may carry a "blocked" label. If this seems like a lot of work to block spam, it is. You would be better off with a Yahoo or Gmail e-mail account that allows you to block specific e-mail addresses rather than just categories of e-mail (see tinyurl.com/kyvb57k for Gmail and tinyurl.com/yysn26xk for Yahoo.)

But remember this: People who send spam are wily, and getting rid of them is difficult. Most of the time, the sender address on a spam e-mail is fake. If you block the fake address, the spammer will simply change the address slightly so that it isn't blocked.

If you want to go to the trouble, Yahoo and Gmail will let you look for the spammer's real address by opening up an email's "full header," a list of details about how the e-mail was sent. The real address will be in the header's "received" or "mailfrom" lines, not the "from" line. (To locate the header, see tinyurl.com/y2upmn9y for Yahoo and tinyurl.com/onaesfw for Gmail.).

But in many cases, the "real address" will belong to some innocent person whose computer was taken over without his or her knowledge and used as a spam-sending machine. Blocking that person won't help much because the spammer will soon move on to someone else's computer.

Bottom line: Blocking spammer e-mail addresses is probably a waste of time. It's better to use an internet provider with a good spam filter (Gmail and Yahoo have some of the best ones.) Then be sure to label all junk mail as spam; that helps the spam filter do a better job.

Q: I've had data files and folders disappear on my Windows 10 PC. The PC has both a hard disk that stores my data and an SSD (solid state drive, a chip-based storage alternative to a hard disk) that stores the operating system and programs. I haven't gotten any warnings that there's a problem with the hard disk, where the missing data was stored. But I was notified of a software corruption problem on the PC's SSD. Is this caused by a flaw in Windows 10?

A: Probably not. It's most likely caused by your corrupted SSD, which probably prevented Windows 10 from correctly storing the missing files and folders on the hard drive.

You may be able to repair the SSD (see tinyurl.com/y7kxrsvu). One method is to unplug the data cable from the SSD, then reboot the PC, which will automatically go to the "BIOS" (basic input/output system) that's stored on the PC's main circuit board. After half an hour, turn off the PC, reconnect the data cable and reboot again. If you can't fix the SSD, take it to a repair shop.

Your missing files and folders may be permanently lost, but you can use data recovery software (see tinyurl.com/y6x3j4gx) to search the hard disk for previously stored versions of the data.

Life & Style

BTS on gaining respect in the US: 'We definitely feel that'

NEW YORK (AP)—Loud and happy screams erupt in unison from the seven-member pop stars BTS when they hear they have notched their first No. 1 hit on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 chart.

"DREAM," yells band member RM. "It still doesn't feel real," adds SUGA, speaking in Korean through a translator. "We're really happy."

"Dynamite," the group's first all-English song, debuted at No. 1 on the U.S. music charts this week, making BTS the first Korean pop act to top the chart. The upbeat song even supplanted "WAP," the raunchy smash hit by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion, to claim the No. 1 position.

"Never expected it," RM tells The Associated Press of beating "WAP" for the top spot. "Never! It's like the song of the year."

But getting their first chart-topping track seemed inevitable for the K-pop boy band, who have continued to find major success in the U.S. in the last few years. They've had four albums top Billboard's 200 albums chart, they've achieved Top 10 successes on the Hot 100 with "Boy With Luv," "On" and "Fake Love," and in just minutes they've sold out U.S. football stadiums that some pop stars need to join forces to perform at.

And even at U.S. awards shows, they've gone from winning honors like "top social artist" to being named best group and best pop act, beating out Maroon 5, Imagine Dragons, twenty one pilots, Jonas Brothers and others. At Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, they won all four prizes they were nominated for.

When asked if BTS—who released their debut single in 2013—felt like they've begun to earn more respect from the U.S., RM said: "We definitely feel that."

"I think in the perspective of culture, I think it's really important to be familiar. So first, we think ... that for many Americans (they were) not familiar with (us)—we look different, we (sing) different, we got some different choreography, music videos, like everything, even lifestyle. But I think as time goes by, we're doing these shows and songs and concerts and awards, I think quite a lot of people in the American music market is getting, like, kind of close (to us)," he said. "I think it's very good and that's what we wanted actually."

It could also be time for BTS' first Grammy nomination.

"When we see (Western) artists ... get nominated for Grammys, they would go: 'Yeah! Yeah!'" said j-hope, standing up from his chair and throwing a small punch in the air.

"Like Travis Scott," he continued. "The nomination is meaningful to even (famous) people like that and to imagine that we could be nominated for Grammy, again, it would be such an honor and a great feeling."

Nominees for the 2021 Grammy Awards will be announced later this year. The show doesn't have a K-pop category, and while there is a best world music album award, there isn't a song category for world and international music. Those songs, then, would compete for best pop duo/group performance—a highly competitive award reserved for big hits or collaborations featuring uber-popular performers.

But the success of "Dynamite" could explode into a Grammy nomination for BTS.

New episodes of Disney+ hit 'Mandalorian' coming in October

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not even a pandemic and television production shutdown can keep Baby Yoda down. A new season of "The Mandalorian" will arrive next month.

An announcement on the Star Wars Twitter account Wednesday said new episodes would be available on Disney+ starting Oct. 30.

Created by Jon Favreau, the first live action "Star Wars" television series became a major hit for the streaming service at its launch. It follows a stoic, duty-bound bounty hunter and his quest to protect a small being who's been christened by fans as Baby Yoda.

The diminutive yet Force-full character, designated The Child by producers, leapt into pop culture and meme stardom after its reveal at the end of the first season's first episode.

"The Mandalorian's" debut season will vie for a best drama Emmy Award later this month. The status of a second season debut had been unclear with the industry-wide production shutdown because of the coronavirus pandemic. The show is created with "virtual production" techniques, including LED video walls that display alien landscape backgrounds.

The announcement tweet did not contain any footage or other details, only the show's title screen with the Mandalorian and Baby Yoda characters in silhouette.

DISNEY PLUS VIA
This image released by Disney Plus shows a scene from "The Mandalorian." An announcement on the Star Wars Twitter account Wednesday said new episodes would be available on Disney+ starting on Oct. 30.

Jamal Khashoggi doc 'The Dissident' finds distribution

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryan Fogel's Jamal Khashoggi documentary "The Dissident" made one of the biggest splashes at the Sundance Film Festival in January. Reviews were terrific. Hillary Clinton attended the premiere, as did Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz.

But perhaps because of global media companies who feared the wrath of the authoritative Saudi Arabian regime that the film alleges was behind Khashoggi's murder, no distribution deal followed. Nearly eight months later, one has finally materialized. Briarcliff Entertainment said Wednesday that it has acquired "The Dissident" and will release it theatrically and via on-demand in late 2020 to coincide with the second anniversary of Khashoggi's death.

"My hope is that this film will enshrine his memory as well as ensure that justice is served, and that our society no longer turns a blind eye to the brutal human rights violations committed by the Saudi regime," Fogel said in a statement. "I am thrilled that the film will receive a truly independent release, detached from corporate and special interests."

Khashoggi, a former Washington Post columnist, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing, the CIA has said. Mohammed, who initially denied Saudi Arabia was behind Khashoggi's killing, eventually granted it was carried out by the Saudi government, but claimed it was not by his orders.

"The Dissident" features the headline-making conclusion of United Nations human rights investigators that the phone of Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos (whose company owns the Washington Post) was hacked into by a malicious file sent from the personal WhatsApp account of the crown prince.

The films also scrutinizes governments and corporations that continue to work closely with Saudi Arabia despite a crackdown on free speech. The film's end credits include a list of corporations tied to Saudi Arabia.

News of another pregnancy is unwelcome surprise to stepdad

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 10 years keeps all kinds of secrets from me. We let her adult daughter, "Maude," move in. Maude is 35 and has one daughter. I recently found out that Maude is pregnant again. I heard they had decided to "surprise me" with the news. (The father is the same guy as before.) I'm tired of being the third wheel, and I think it's time for me to call it quits. What do you think?

STAY OR GO IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR STAY OR GO: I'm glad you asked. What I think is that you are outnumbered. Maude should be living on her own or with the father of her children. If I am reading between the lines correctly, you have allowed yourself to be stuck with the financial burden that Maude and her irresponsible boyfriend should be carrying. I also think it's time you gave your wife an ultimatum—either Maude and her daughter move out or you will. Whichever option she chooses, your situation will improve.

DEAR ABBY: I've been married for five years. Before meeting my husband, I never thought I would find "the one." Recently, I have been having feelings of wanting to experience sleeping with a woman. I've always been sexually adventurous, and I have mentioned a threesome, but he isn't interested.

I don't want to die without experiencing sex with a woman, but I also love my husband dearly, and we have a great partnership that I don't want to destroy. Help!

WOMAN SEEKS WOMAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR WOMAN: It's time for another frank conversation with your husband. Explain clearly that although you love him dearly and do not want to destroy your partnership, you are bi-curious and you would like to experience sex with a woman. However, if his reaction is negative, you must then decide how important fulfilling this fantasy is to you in light of the fact that it could threaten your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a stay-at-home mother. My husband works Monday to Friday, 10 hours a day. We have been married nearly four years. My problem is we never have alone time. I feel if it continues, we will just fall apart.

On weekends, we sit home, and it's claustrophobic. We have only one vehicle, which he needs to use, so during the week, I'm stuck at home. Being home 24/7 is driving me nuts. We never get out and have family time or a date night. I tell him we need it, but he doesn't seem to care. Could you guide me on what to do?

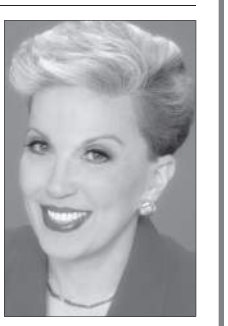
IN NEED OF COUPLES' TIME

DEAR IN NEED: Stop telling your husband "we" need a date night and say instead, "I need this! If you want our marriage to survive, you will take me out of here so we can spend time without the kid (or kids) because I feel like I'm going nuts."

A date night every few weeks or once a month isn't too much to ask for. If he is worried about the expense, make sure he knows a hamburger, a sandwich, a drive ALONE WITH HIM is what you need. But if he still doesn't seem to care, then your problem is greater than cabin fever.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

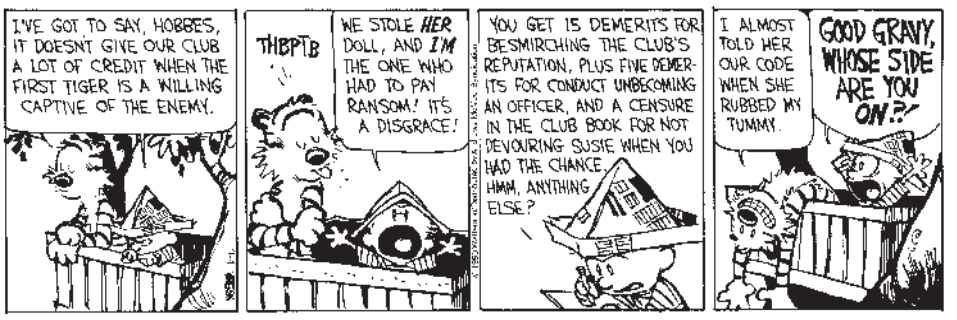


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

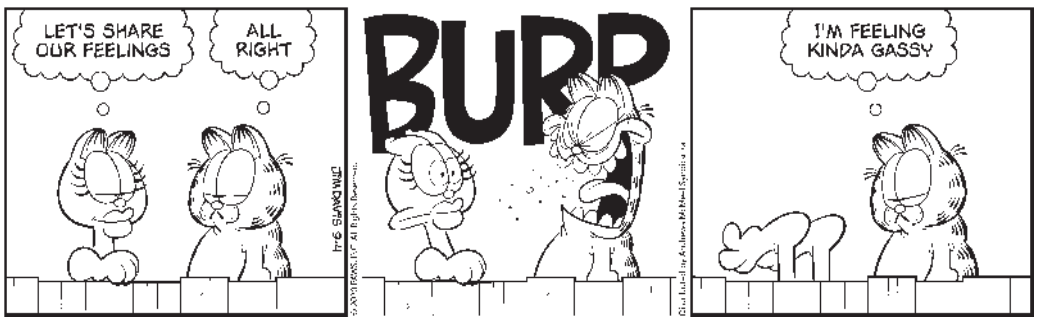
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT TO SAY, HOBBES, IT DOESN'T GIVE OUR CLUB A LOT OF CREDIT WHEN THE FIRST TIGER IS A WILLING CAPTIVE OF THE ENEMY.
THBPTB
WE STOLE HER DOLL, AND I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO PAY RANSOM! IT'S A DISGRACE!
YOU GET 15 DEMERITS FOR BESMIRCHING THE CLUB'S REPUTATION, PLUS FIVE DEMERITS FOR CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER, AND A CENSURE IN THE CLUB BOOK FOR NOT DEVOURING SUSIE WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE. HMM, ANYTHING ELSE?
I ALMOST TOLD HER OUR CODE WHEN SHE RUBBED MY TUMMY.
GOOD GRAVY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!

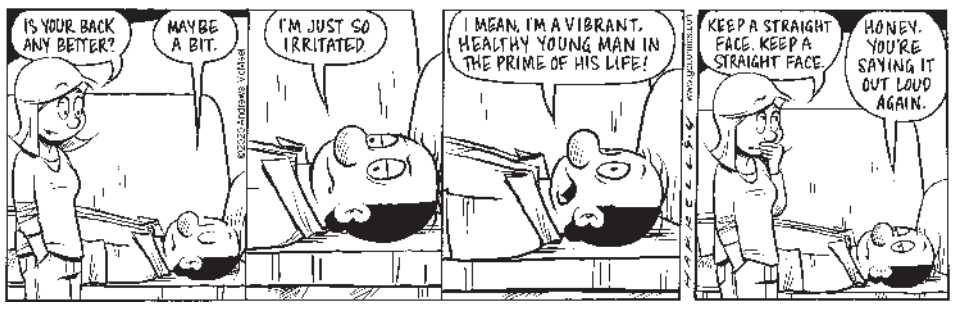
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



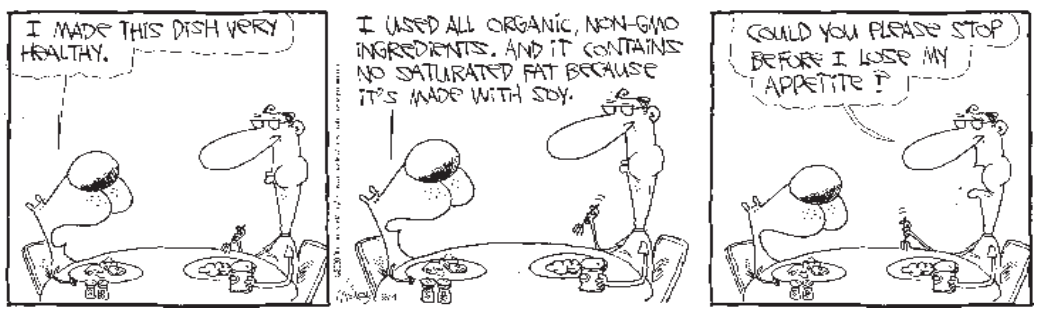
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IS YOUR BACK ANY BETTER?
MAYBE A BIT.
I'M JUST SO IRRITATED
I MEAN, I'M A VIBRANT, HEALTHY YOUNG MAN IN THE PRIME OF HIS LIFE!
KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE. KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE.
HONEY. YOU'RE SAYING IT OUT LOUD AGAIN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I MADE THIS DISH VERY HEALTHY.
I USED ALL ORGANIC, NON-GMO INGREDIENTS. AND IT CONTAINS NO SATURATED FAT BECAUSE IT'S MADE WITH SOY.
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP BEFORE I LOSE MY APPETITE?

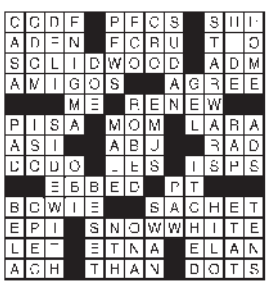
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

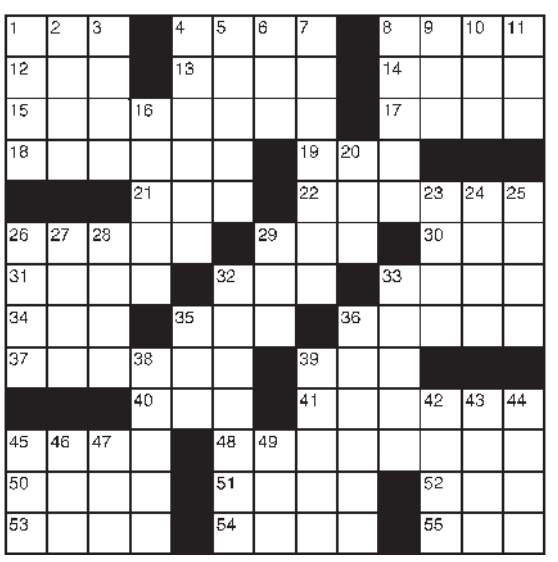
ACROSS
1 Luau bowlful
4 Luminary
8 Prejudice
12 Samovar
13 Lighten
14 The Eternal City
15 Blue-penciled
17 Cameo stone
18 Parisian palace
19 Swelled head
21 Dime portrait
22 "Delicious!"
26 Western resort lake
29 Bumped into
30 Granada gold
31 Get wind of
32 "Way cool!"
33 Did laps
34 Internet address
35 Maui memento
36 Sea birds
37 Like some signature lines
39 Refusals
40 Large snake
41 Cling (to)
45 Jupiter's wife
48 Merlots and malbecs
50 Lay — the line
51 Roman 1007
52 Little rascal
53 Apportion
54 Fish story
55 Mafia boss

DOWN
1 Chaste
2 Pitcher Hershiser
3 "500" race
4 Break away
5 Spud
6 Enzyme suffix
7 Visibly sleep-deprived
8 Witch craft?
9 Charged bit
10 "Little Women" woman
11 Gender
16 Regarding
20 Belly
23 Cater-waul
24 Russian river
25 May honorees
26 Dull sound of impact
27 Plane-related
28 Sentry's cry
29 — tai (cocktail)
32 Soviet fighting force
33 Japanese fish dish
35 Zodiac cat
36 "Violet Clay" author Gail
38 Steak choice
39 Bottom
42 Oklahoma city
43 San —, Italy
44 "NFL Live" channel
45 Morrison of The Doors
46 Multi-purpose truck
47 "Kidding!"
49 Actress Longoria

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Cummings, 38; Beyonce Knowles, 39; Wes Bentley, 42; Damon Wayans, 60.

Happy Birthday: Take care of money matters personally this year. Refuse to take part in other people's business or to bail out someone from a tight spot. You'll gain the most if you are true to yourself and take care of business responsibly on your own. Positive change is heading your way. Stay focused on what makes you happy and what you want most. Your numbers are 4, 12, 21, 25, 32, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Back down. Being argumentative or pushy won't help you get your way. Be helpful, understanding and willing to work with others to reach similar goals. Take care of your health and physical well-being. Risk will be costly. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Plan carefully. Adhere to a budget, and don't promise more than you can deliver. Focus on positive change and using your intelligence, not letting yourself get caught in something that may be harmful to you emotionally or physically. Avoid arguments. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Strive to get things done on time. Consider what you want and how to go about getting it without taking a risk or putting yourself in harm's way. Patience and truth will be required if you want to avoid uncertainty. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your emotions in check. If you overreact or take on too much, it will lead to regret. Home improvements and dealing with contracts and personal finances will help you bring about substantial stability and security to your life. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep an open mind, and learn from the experience. Be willing to do the work yourself to achieve your objective. If you rely on someone or you follow instead of lead, you will have to backtrack. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't make promises you cannot keep or depend on someone trying to get you to buy into his or her plans. Concentrate on the changes you want to make that will bring you peace of mind and improve your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look over personal papers, and update anything due to expire. A change that will lower your expenses will put your mind at ease. Take better care of your health and physical well-being. All work and no play will be stressful. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change will be good for your morale. Consider who you like to spend time with and the activities that bring you the most joy, and pursue your goal. Be honest with yourself as well as others regarding your needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take on projects at home to cut your overhead or add to your convenience or entertainment. Refuse to get caught in someone else's goal instead of focusing on what you want to happen. Protect against fatigue and lowering your immune system. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think twice before you engage in an emotional battle with someone you love. Listen, be patient and try to find a workable solution. Getting along will be far less stressful in the end. Choose love over discord. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put* your heart into whatever job or responsibility you encounter. Focus on making money and handling your finances properly. Don't give in to temptation or someone playing games with you. Take extra precautions when you are in public places. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful what you agree to when asked for help. Make suggestions rather than donating your time or cash. Spend more time with someone you love who brings out the best in you. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, sensitive and helpful. You are adaptable and reliable.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		9				
8	4			7			3	
	5		1					2
	1	2	5		6	7	9	
3					8		6	
	9			2			5	6
			3			1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	5	1	4	9	2	7	3
2	1	7	3	6	8	9	4	5
9	4	3	5	2	7	6	1	8
3	5	4	8	7	2	1	9	6
1	6	2	9	5	4	8	3	7
8	7	9	6	3	1	5	2	4
5	9	1	4	8	3	7	6	2
4	2	6	7	9	5	3	8	1
7	3	8	2	1	6	4	5	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KELLY PRESTON (1962-2020) Solution: 6 letters

Y	Y	O	H	E	P	M	A	C	E	C	A	P	S	L
G	N	N	T	G	A	M	E	E	K	A	T	S	I	A
O	N	I	I	A	K	H	O	L	Y	M	A	N	Z	N
L	A	S	M	G	C	G	I	R	L	U	D	I	L	E
U	D	A	S	A	A	E	V	O	L	A	H	W	A	G
E	L	C	W	J	J	G	A	U	U	W	B	T	P	O
N	E	F	A	E	O	N	L	H	H	A	A	L	F	R
I	I	A	N	T	H	O	E	C	O	T	E	L	E	T
T	F	M	T	S	N	L	H	B	N	L	L	E	I	U
S	E	I	S	O	E	I	J	T	O	O	A	V	H	E
I	L	L	H	L	P	I	J	E	R	V	H	I	C	N
R	T	Y	A	S	P	E	T	E	R	A	X	N	S	I
H	T	M	A	G	U	I	R	E	T	R	E	E	I	V
C	A	T	I	N	T	H	E	H	A	T	Y	I	M	E
K	B	A	H	A	M	A	S	G	O	D	D	L	O	K

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Bahamas, Battlefield, Benjamin, Casino, Cat in the Hat, CHiPs, Christine, Danny, Earth, Ella Bleu, Eulogy, Exhale, Family, Gage, Game, Girl, Gotti, Holy Man, Honolulu, Honor, Jack, Jerry, Jets, Jett, John, Kamalelehua, Kevin, Levine, Linda, Love, Maguire, Mischief, Neutrogena, Old Dogs, Palzis, Peter, Smith, SpaceCamp, Stake, Travolta, Twins, Wants

Yesterday's Answer: Authorized

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Butler gives Heat 2-0 lead; Rockets advance

FLORIDA (AP)—Jimmy Butler loves soccer, and the final scene from Game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals resembled a penalty shot in a shootout.

Only there was no goalie.

This was just a free throw, no time on the clock, nobody else from the Miami Heat or Milwaukee Bucks standing along the lane. Game tied, two chances to make one shot, the outcome completely in Butler's hands.

"I wish I could kick it in there and say that's how I won it," Butler said.

Rattling home a free throw will have to suffice. Butler got the first one to bounce home, made a second one that was irrelevant, and the Heat grabbed control of their East semifinal matchup with a 116-114 win over the Bucks on Wednesday night—becoming the first No. 5 seed to take a 2-0 series lead over a No. 1 seed.

Butler was fouled by Giannis Antetokounmpo with no time remaining, the referees said, a call that was affirmed in a review after the initial whistle. The ball was out of Butler's hands when Antetokounmpo clearly made contact.

"I'd say we're disappointed with the judgment, the decision, the timing," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

It was a bizarre ending to, well, a bizarre ending.

The Heat were up by six with 27 seconds left and frittered that away, Butler giving Milwaukee two points with a most ill-advised pass—"a terrible IQ play," he acknowledged—back toward the Bucks' basket that turned into a layup by Brook Lopez.

That got Milwaukee within two, and Butler made one free throw with 7.7 seconds left to get the lead back to three. Khris Middleton was fouled by Goran Dragic—a call Miami argued to no avail, because the Heat unsuccessfully used their challenge on a foul of Lopez shooting a 3 in the first quarter—with 4.3 seconds left, and the All-Star made all three free throws to tie it.

Butler wound up with the ball in the deep corner, and Antetokounmpo—the reigning Defensive Player of the Year—contested.

"I feel like, personally, it was the right play," Antetokounmpo said.

Then came the whistle, and that was that. Milwaukee couldn't challenge the call; the Bucks used their review to overturn what would have been Antetokounmpo's fourth foul on a charging call into Butler early in the fourth quarter.

"In the judgment of the officials, the foul occurred, I guess, at some point when he landed," Budenholzer said. "In the judgment of the officials, there was enough to warrant a foul."

Dragic scored 23 points, Tyler Herro added 17 off the bench and Jae Crowder had 16 for Miami. Bam Adebayo scored 15 points, Butler and Duncan Robinson each had 13 and Kelly Olynyk added 11 for Miami—which is 6-0 in this postseason.

"Doesn't take a genius to know that we were going to try to get that ball in Jimmy's mitts and see what can happen from there," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He was very patient. There were four seconds left. I think a lot of players would have rushed. He took his time."

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez (11), left, battles with Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) for a loose ball during the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Antetokounmpo had 29 points and 14 rebounds for the Bucks. Middleton scored 23 points for Milwaukee, which got 16 apiece from Lopez and Eric Bledsoe and 14 from George Hill.

Meanwhile, James Harden made up for a miserable shooting night with a big blocked shot, Russell Westbrook scored 20 points against his former team and the Houston Rockets edged the Oklahoma City Thunder 104-102 on Wednesday night in Game 7 of their first-round series.

The Rockets pulled out a tense final game of the first round that lasted long past the final basket as replays and fouls were sorted out.

In the end, Houston prevailed to set up a second-round matchup with the Los Angeles Lakers that begins Friday despite Harden, the NBA's leading scorer, going 4 for 15 from the field.

The frantic final seconds of a game that was tight throughout had Houston take the lead for good at 103-102 when P.J. Tucker scored with 1:25 remaining. After changes of possession, the Thunder got the ball to Lu Dort, who attempted a 3-pointer that Harden blocked with 4.8 seconds left.

Robert Covington made a free throw with 1.4 seconds to go and Harden was whistled for fouling Danilo Gallinari before the ball was inbounded, giving the Thunder one free throw and the ball. But Gallinari missed the free throw and the Thunder turned it over on the last inbounds pass.

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Saints bracing for challenge from Brady's Bucs

ATLANTA (AP) — Tom Brady won't have to wait long for a first look at the team his Buccaneers will be chasing in the NFC South.

The 43-year-old Brady will make his Tampa Bay debut when the Buccaneers open at New Orleans on Sept. 13. Brady won a record six Super Bowl championships with New England, but he's starting over in a new offense after signing a two-year deal with Tampa Bay.

The Week 1 matchup will feature the NFL's top two all-time passers. New Orleans' Drew Brees is No. 1 with 77,416 yards. Brady is No. 2 with 74,571 yards. Brees also holds NFL records for completions and touchdown passes.

Brees, 41, has led the Saints to three consecutive NFC South titles. Brady, who has been joined by his long-time Patriots tight end, Rob Gronkowski, in Tampa Bay, brings a new challenge to the Saints' hold on the division.

As the respectful new kid in the division, Brady offered generous praise for Brees and the Saints.

"Obviously, when you go against great players like Drew, and a great team like that, you know there's not a lot of margin of error," Brady said. "... They have a great quarterback, a great offense, incredible skill players, great continuity in their organization. ... I have a lot of respect for them, their program and how they run it."

The Saints, coming off back-to-back 13-3 finishes, have been the division's only winning team the last two seasons.

The Buccaneers and Atlanta Falcons each finished 7-9 in 2019. Atlanta won its final four games, saving coach Dan Quinn's job. The Carolina Panthers are rebuilding with first-year coach Matt Rhule.

Tom Brady, left, will make his Tampa Bay debut against Drew Brees' New Orleans Saints on Sept. 13.
AP

The Buccaneers have commanded most of the offseason headlines in the division -- and much of them elsewhere. The spotlight follows Brady.

That's fine with Falcons defensive tackle Grady Jarrett.

"The attention ain't going to win you no games," Jarrett said.

The Saints have done a lot of winning the last few years. Actually, left tackle Terron Armstead says the Saints are playing for much more than just finishing ahead of Brady's Bucs. He said the team's goal is "Super Bowl or bust."

"If we don't get to the big dance, it was a failure of a season," Armstead said.

Winning combination

Sean Payton has been the Saints' coach since 2006, the same year the team signed Brees as a free agent. The coach and quarterback have won six division titles and one Super Bowl together.

"Just brilliant minds," said Saints tight end Josh Hill. "They see the game a little different than most people. They've got a gift to see 22 people at once. ... I think that their work ethic, knowledge and vision for the game is unparalleled."

First duel

Tampa Bay linebacker Shaquil Barrett remembers the Bucs were swept by the Saints last season.

"I really enjoy that we get to play the Saints first because that's the team last year that I thought really beat us convincingly," Barrett said. "We didn't have a chance in the games and I didn't like that at all."

Barrett said the opener provides "a good chance to come out and start the season the right way, and we're looking forward to that for sure."

QB shuffle

Brady is only part of the new quarterback picture in the league. The Panthers cut Cam Newton, who now is expected to replace Brady as New England's starter. Former Tampa Bay starter Jameis Winston is playing behind Brees after signing a one-year deal with the Saints.

And former Saints backup Teddy Bridgewater is Carolina's new starter.

Only Atlanta, with Matt Ryan and Matt Schaub, have the same top two quarterbacks returning in this division.

Familiar system

The Panthers hired former Saints assistant Joe Brady as offensive coordinator. Joe Brady helped lead LSU to a national championship as an offensive assistant last season and worked with Bridgewater in New Orleans in 2018.

The familiarity with Joe Brady has helped make for a smooth transition for Bridgewater, who says he has helped teach the system to other quarterbacks.

"I think it made a huge impact for us," Bridgewater said. "Joe, he was able to just continue to pick things up where we left off a couple years ago. He's not having to teach it to me the first time.

"I know how this offense is supposed to look and we have expectations. With me having experience in this system with Joe, we expect things to work a certain way."

Continuity for Falcons

The Falcons added some important free agents, including running back Todd Gurley, outside linebacker Dante Fowler and tight end Hayden Hurst. Otherwise, continuity could be a key advantage as Ryan operates in the second season with offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter.

The Falcons are looking to build on momentum from a 6-2 finish to last season. A key will be the health of Gurley, whose workload has been monitored in training camp.

The Falcons play the Buccaneers two of the last three weeks of the season.

Braves beat Red Sox to finish 3-game sweep

BOSTON (AP)—Adam Duvall hit three home runs a night after teammate Marcell Ozuna become the first NL player ever to hit three homers in Fenway Park, and the East-leading Atlanta Braves beat the stumbling Boston Red Sox 7-5 Wednesday night to complete a three-game sweep.

Duvall hit a pair of two-run shots over the Green Monster and a solo blast to center for his five RBI. Ozuna added a long, tiebreaking solo drive for the Braves, who entered the three-game set 0-12-3 in their last 15 series against the Red Sox.

It was Atlanta's first sweep in Boston since capturing a three-game set in 2002. Freddie Freeman had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 16 games.

Indians 5, Royals 0

Triston McKenzie tossed six innings of three-hit ball to celebrate his 23rd birthday, and Tyler Naquin hit a pair of homers for the only runs of the game to lead Cleveland.

McKenzie (2-0) needed just 81 pitches thanks to six strikeouts, no walks and some slick defense behind him. His bullpen went the rest of the way, holding the Royals without a hit over the final three innings.

Astros 2, Rangers 1

Michael Brantley hit a two-run homer early to back up a strong start from rookie Cristian Javier and Houston held on to beat Texas.

Brantley connected off Kolby Allard (0-4) with one out in the first on his homer to the seats in right field to give the Astros an early lead.

Blue Jays 2, Marlins 1

Lourdes Gurriel homered and Hyun Jin Ryu pitched six solid innings to lead Toronto.

After Miami's Sixto Sanchez got through the first four innings on 43 pitches, Gurriel snapped the rookie right-hander's 11-inning scoreless string with a two-run shot for a 2-0 lead in the fifth.

Reds 4, Cardinals 3

Joey Votto's single in the bottom of the ninth inning drove in Shogo Akiyama with the winning run for Cincinnati.

The Reds avoided a three-game sweep to finish 3-4 on a homestand against the Cubs and Cardinals.

Phillies 3, Nationals 0

Zack Wheeler tossed three-hit ball over 6 2/3 innings to outpitch Max Scherzer, Jay Bruce hit a solo homer and Philadelphia beat Washington.

Neil Walker was 3 for 3 with two RBI for the Phillies.

Mets 9, Orioles 4

Michael Conforto went 4 for 5 with a homer and five RBI, Pete Alonso hit a lengthy solo shot and New York snapped a five-game losing streak.

Conforto matched his career high in hits with a two-run homer in the first inning, RBI doubles in the fifth and seventh, and a run-scoring single in the eighth.

Rays 5, Yankees 2

Mike Brosseau got some revenge against the New York Yankees, hitting two home runs as the Tampa Bay Rays topped their AL East rivals again.

The Rays improved to 20-4 in their last 24 games and moved 4 1/2 games ahead of the Yankees.

Rockies 9, Giants 6

Garrett Hampson and Sam Hilliard homered and newcomer Kevin Pillar delivered a key triple as Colorado bounced back from a battering, rallying to beat San Francisco.

Mychal Givens (1-0), acquired over the weekend from Baltimore, worked a scoreless inning for the win. Daniel Bard got three outs for his fourth save.

Cubs 8, Pirates 2

Javier Baez hit a three-run home run and Kyle Hendricks pitched one-run ball over six innings to lead Chicago.

Baez connected in the fourth inning to put Chicago in front 3-1. Hendricks (4-4) scattered six hits to go with six strikeouts and two walks.

Brewers 8, Tigers 5

Keston Hiura and Jace Peterson homered as Milwaukee snapped Detroit's six-game winning streak.

Milwaukee matched its biggest comeback in a victory this season. The Brewers trailed 5-1 in a 6-5 triumph over the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 27.

Twins 8, White Sox 1

Josh Donaldson returned from the injured list with two hits and two RBI for Minnesota.

Jake Cave and Miguel Sano hit solo shots, Eddie Rosario had a two-run homer and Jose Berrios (3-3) pitched six sharp innings for the Twins. Two of Chicago's four errors directly contributed to Minnesota's highest score in 19 games.

Djokovic survives scare; Pliskova crashes out

NEW YORK—Novak Djokovic overcame an early scare to move into the third round of the US Open Wednesday but top women's seed Karolina Pliskova crashed out in the tournament's first shock.

Djokovic extended an undefeated run in 2020 to 25 matches as Pliskova was stunned in straight sets by France's Caroline Garcia, the world No. 50.

The world No. 1 Djokovic dropped the first against Britain's Kyle Edmund but rallied to progress, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 inside a subdued, spectator-free Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows.

"I'm really glad having an early kind of tough match because it kind of serves me better I think for the rest of the tournament," said Djokovic.

The Serbian superstar is looking to close the gap on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, both absent from Flushing Meadows, in the race for the all-time men's Grand Slam singles title record.

The 33-year-old, who won an eighth Australian Open title in February, is on 17, with Nadal on 19 and Federer on 20.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns to Great Britain's Kyle Edmund during the second round of the US Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in New York.

Pliskova—the 28-year-old world number three from the Czech Republic—suffered a miserable 1-6, 6-7 exit to a confident Garcia who rushed to a 5-0 lead in the first set.

Pliskova said her defeat was nothing to do with being elevated to the top of the draw after a host of high-ranking withdrawals over coronavirus fears.

"No, zero pressure from this for me. This is nothing to do with my loss today," she sniffed.

Elsewhere in the men's draw Wednesday, fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated American Maxime Cressy, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4, in his first runout on the famous Ashe court.

"It would have been even better with fans but getting a first taste of what it is was great for me," he said.

Earlier fifth seed Alexander Zverev defeated American wildcard Brandon Nakashima in a far from smooth 7-5, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3, 6-1 win.

The world No. 7 traded 24 aces with 10 double faults against a player ranked 223 inside an empty but and humid Louis Armstrong Stadium to move into round three.

"I was sweating through my shoes, which is unusual," said Zverev, explaining a footwear change during the match. "I needed to go from the dry tires to the wet tires a little bit."

Belgian seventh seed David Goffin also progressed as the top seeds continue to dominate at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

Osaka sails through

In the women's draw, 2018 champion Naomi Osaka sailed into the third round, dismantling Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-1, 6-2 in just 1hr 9min.

Sixth seed Petra Kvitova vanquished Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 while Germany's Angelique Kerber beat compatriot Anna-Lena Friedsam in straight sets.

The 17th seed won, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6), in one hour 40 minutes inside Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Also in the women's event, unseeded Russian Varvara Gracheva dumped out French 30th seed Kristina Mladenovic, 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0.

Mladenovic's exit came after a remarkable collapse. The Frenchwoman led, 6-1, 5-1 and failed to convert four match points as Gracheva came roaring back to win.

"I just collapsed," a gloomy Mladenovic said afterwards. "I had nothing left in the tank."

The US Open is taking place in a spectator-free bubble, resulting in a staid atmosphere in contrast with the usual frenetic energy that pervades the grounds of the tennis center during Open week.

Game-winning points are being met with the odd clap from coaches and admiring glances from rival players watching from their own personal suites in Arthur Ashes.

Crowd noise is piped-in between sets while images of spectators cheering from their sofas at home are shown on "fan cams" around the Arthur Ashe court. ***(NBC)***

ATALIG

From Page 24

and mentor for my development as a player and a person," Atalig said.

Atalig

Race is pleased to know that Atalig continues to play tennis and polishes his skills under top-level coaches.

"His goal is to play college tennis and he is interested in playing for the CNMI National Team in the future," Race said.

Besides training with Melchionna, Atalig is also planning to travel to Florida next month to work with former Italian pro Claudio Pistolesi.

"I am still in the process of deciding if I am going or not due to the COVID-19 issues there," Atalig said.

Pistolesi played in ATP Pro Tours for more than a decade before calling it a career, which was highlighted by his participation in four Grand Slam events (Australian, French, and US Open and Wimbledon) and a world ranking as high as No. 71. He is a member of the ATP Player Council and coached notable professional players like French Open two-time finalists Robin Soderling and WTA champion Daniela Hantuchová. However, Pistolesi is best known for coaching Monica Seles during her title win against Anke Huber in the 1996 Australian Open.

SABLAN

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Taeack, who tallied a net 72.

Taeck, a 12-handicapper, drilled a 44 and 40 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 84 and net 72—just one shot ahead of Manny Alvarez. Also sporting a 12 handicap, Alvarez delivered a net 73 and gross 85 following his 45 in the first nine holes and 40 in the last to settle for third.

Besides his third place finish in the February competition, Alvarez made three closest to the pin shots (No. 12, 17, and 6), while Guerrero had the same feat on hole No. 6. In the longest drive contests, Sablan and Krishnan topped holes No. 11 and 2, respectively.

With SGA needing to make up for six competitions, the group will hold two events every month starting this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The April and May Ace events will be held this weekend, while the June and July will take place in October, and the August and September tournaments are set for November. In December, SGA will have the October and November Ace, while the club championship along with the December Ace event are slated for January next year.

'Difficult for Messi to stay at Barca'

SPAIN—It will be difficult for Lionel Messi to remain at Barcelona after he made public his desire to leave the Spanish club, his father and agent Jorge Messi said today as he arrived in the city to negotiate his son's future.

After flying in on a private jet, Jorge Messi was expected to meet club president Josep Maria Bartomeu later on Wednesday to discuss his son's future, Spanish media reported.

A club spokesperson declined to comment.

The six-time world player of the year insists he has a clause in his contract that allows him to leave on a free transfer,a claim disputed by Barcelona and La Liga, who say the Argentine can only leave if a rival club is willing to pay a €700m ($834M) buy-out clause.

Barcelona say the clause expired in June but Messi believes it is still valid due to the COVID-19 disrupted nature of the previous season.

"I don't know, I know nothing," Messi's father told Spanish TV channel Cuatro when asked if the 33-year-old would leave the only club he has played for professionally.

"But when pressed if it would be hard for him to remain, he said "yes". And asked how he sees Messi's future at Barcelona, he replied "difficult, difficult".

Jorge dodged questions on whether Manchester City would be a good option for his son. A move to Manchester City would allow Messi to link up with his former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola.

Neymar tested positive

Three Paris Saint-Germain players have tested positive for the coronavirus, the French club said Wednesday.

PSG did not name the players but sports daily L'Équipe reported that Neymar is among the positive cases.

PSG has not played since losing to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final last month. It will start its French league campaign on Sept. 10.

After their loss to Bayern, several PSG players took a few days off in Ibiza. L'Équipe identified the players who tested positive as Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes, noting that they were part of the trip to the Spanish island.

The club said in a statement that the three players are now "subject to the appropriate health protocol" and that the rest of the squad and coaching staff "will continue to undergo tests in the coming days."

The first game of the French soccer season was postponed last month because of an outbreak of COVID-19 cases at Marseille after the southern club confirmed three positive cases among its first-team players and staff.

Several other French clubs have been hit by the virus, including Montpellier, Rennes and Lyon.

French soccer was widely criticized in the spring after it was the highest profile European league to end the season early during the pandemic rather than try to restart. The standings were declared final with PSG retaining its title and Marseille second. ***(AP/NBC)***

AP

Barcelona's Lionel Messi holds his head during the Champions League quarterfinal match between FC Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, Portugal, Friday, Aug. 14, 2020.

Butler gives Heat 2-0 lead; Rockets advance

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Atalig working with ATP coach

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The then 9-year-old Tony Atalig returns a shot to Robbie Schorr during their game in the 2012 Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2013 file photo, Tony Atalig, eighth left front row, poses with his fellow CNMI players during the North Pacific Regional Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI tennis player Tony Atalig has been training under an Association of Tennis Professionals coach as he braces for high-level tournaments this year.

Atalig, who played in various junior tennis tournaments on island along with her sisters Catherine and Elizaveta Atalig for several years before their family moved to New York in 2015, is working with Luca Melchionna at the Riverside Clay Tennis Association in New York City.

The Italian-American is a C Level International-certified ATP coach and a member of the Global Professional Tennis Coach Association. Melchionna, who is a lawyer by profession, has been with RCTA since 2011 and played in local and regional tournaments in Italy.

"I've been working with coach Luca and didn't get to play in any tournaments prior to the COVID-19 pandemic because I am mainly focusing on training. However, I will be playing in October and onwards," said Atalig, who used to challenge Pacific Games gold medalists Robbie Schorr and Ken Song during his playing years on Saipan.

The 17-year-old saw action in U10 and U12 tournaments under the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and was coached by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and many-time national team mentor Jeff Race.

"Coach Jeff is great coach

See ATALIG on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nick Sablan, seen here competing in a local tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, took the Saipan Golfers Association March Ace title.

Sablan gets SGA March Ace title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Golfers Association is playing catchup after missing several monthly tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, it just held its third competition for the year with veteran Nick Sablan winning the SGA March Ace event last Aug. 23 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Sablan was on target on the east course of the Kagman facility, as he shot a 36 and 35 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a 1-under par 71. He holds a 6 handicap, leaving him with a net 65 for a five-stroke win against Tony Deleon Guerrero, Das Krishnan, and Larry Deleon Guerrero. Tony fired a 41 and 44 and owns a 15 handicap for a gross 85 and net 70, winning the three-way tie for second against Krishnan and Larry. The 12-handicapper Krishnan posted a gross 82 with his 40 in the first nine holes and 42 in the last, while the 18-handicapper Larry carded a 46 and 42 for a gross 88.

Meanwhile, besides topping the March Ace tournament, Sablan also hit the longest drive on holes No. 3 and 8. In the closest to the pin contest, Alex Tudela, Juan Pan Guerrero, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan prevailed on holes No. 15, 11, and 6, respectively.

Manibusan, the reigning SGA Ace of Aces, finished first in SGA's last competition before COVID-19 stalled the group's tournaments. The 7-handicapper had a net 69 and gross 76 (40 on the front nines and 36 on the back) during the February Ace tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links. However, since Manibusan had already won the January Ace, the February crown was handed to second placer Jung Eun

See SABLAN on Page 23